



# Mokena Junior High School

## District 159

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19815 Kirkstone Way • Mokena, IL 60448-1334 • (708) 342-4870 • [www.mokena159.org](http://www.mokena159.org)

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### Graduation 2024

**Date:** Sunday, May 19, 2024  
**Time:** Student Arrival Time - 11:30 AM  
Doors Open for Spectators - 11:30 AM  
Ceremony Begins - 12:00 PM  
**Location:** Lincoln-Way Central Fieldhouse  
Door 11a  
1801 E. Lincoln Highway  
New Lenox, IL 60451

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The Meteor Graduation Ceremony is a longstanding tradition for Mokena Junior High School. We are proud to be able to continue this tradition again this year. The following guidelines will help families understand what will be expected and should answer your questions about the ceremony. Please be sure to read the entire document carefully.

### Attendance

**Student** - We are allowing all eligible students to participate in graduation ceremonies. It is important to note that students who misbehave in the days before or even minutes leading up to the ceremony may be eliminated from the event. Students should be on their best behavior and finish the year showing the highest level of Meteor Character.

### Student Attire

**Gowns** - All students participating in the ceremony must wear a gown that was purchased through Mokena Junior High School. Your child has already been measured for the gown and we have one available for him/her. We have changed vendors for gowns this year. **Gowns from years prior to 2023 are not the same color and cannot be worn in this year's ceremony.**

Students will receive their gowns and tassels about a week before graduation. The school will send home a message when the gowns have been distributed so parents can make sure they have them and they are in a safe place for the ceremony.

Prior to the ceremony, families should take the gown out of its package and hang it. The gown can be ironed according to the instructions in the package. Many have found that if you have access to a steamer, it is easier to steam the wrinkles out as it is fairly easy to scorch the material with an iron.

**Mortar Boards** - We do not wear mortar boards (caps) at graduation. Students will not be allowed to wear any type of head covering unless it is a religious requirement.



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**Sunglasses** - Students are not allowed to wear sunglasses during the ceremony.

**Footwear** - We recommend that students wear comfortable dress shoes with a minimal heel. Students will be going up and down a ramp and should be wearing shoes they are comfortable to walk in and of a type they are accustomed to wearing. Athletic shoes, Crocs, slides, or flip flops are not to be worn to graduation.

**Beneath the gown** - We will have our gowns on and zipped closed from the time we leave the staging area through the end of the recessional from the fieldhouse. However, we will be able to see any clothing that is below the gown and at the neckline. We require that clothing that is visible with the gown zipped be in good condition and should not detract from the solemnness of the ceremony.

In most cases, boys wear dress shoes, dress pants, a collared shirt and often wear a tie. Girls tend to wear shoes with little to no heel, dresses/skirts, or dress pants, and/or a blouse. We ask that students avoid wearing denim or clothing that is distressed.

We also recommend that families consider the weather. The fieldhouse is not air conditioned so it is likely to be warm on the day of the ceremony.

## The Ceremony

The entire ceremony will take place in the LWC fieldhouse.

**Practice** - We will hold graduation ceremony practice during school on May 17th. At the practice, the students will learn the processional and recessional, when to sit and stand, and how to receive their diploma cover. It is very important that your child be present at school for graduation practice so they know what to do, where to go, and how the ceremony will flow.

This year we will be handing out diplomas at graduation practice. We will also hand out their Golden Folders and report cards as a way to practice receiving the diploma cover. Students will have the option for a fist bump or a handshake when receiving the diploma cover.

**Arrival Time** - Students should plan to arrive at Lincoln-Way **CENTRAL** at approximately 11:30 AM on May 19. They should be dropped off near the Fieldhouse entrance, Door 11a. (See attached map.) We will line everyone up in the main gym prior to the processional to the fieldhouse. Students should be in the main gym no later than 11:50 AM to check in and find their place in line.

We will begin the procession toward the stadium at 11:55 AM. **Students must not be late. Any students who are not in the processional line at 12:00 PM will not be included in the ceremony.**

**Parking** - Families are allowed to park in any of the lots surrounding Lincoln-Way Central (See attached map).

**Guest Attire** - All guests are expected to dress appropriately for the dignity of this event. Again, guests should also dress appropriately for the weather.



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**Guest Entry** - All guests should enter through Door 11a. Doors to the fieldhouse will open at 11:30 AM. There will be no entry prior to 11:30 AM for any guests.

**We do not require tickets.** There is abundant seating in the fieldhouse both in chairs on the floor and in the bleachers. We suggest that you ask your child which side he or she will be sitting to determine the best viewing. Handicapped seating is available on the floor.

**The Ceremony** - The ceremony begins promptly at 12:00 PM with the student processional.

All activities will be held on the stage. Students will sit in rows. They will be seated alphabetically with the students with last names starting with "A" nearest the stage.

When it comes time for students to cross the stage and receive their diploma cover, all students will enter the stage from the right and exit on the left. Families should stay in their seats during the conferring of diploma covers. We will have professional photographers at the stage capturing the important moments.

Additionally, we ask that families and friends keep with the dignity of the program by refraining from calling out or making noises during the announcing of names. Doing so slows down the event and is often embarrassing to the graduate. The use of noise making devices of any kind is strictly prohibited. Those caught using noise making devices will be promptly escorted out of the stadium by security.

**Awards** - We will announce the winners during the Graduation Ceremony. During the ceremony when the recipient's name is called, the graduate will stand to be recognized. Students will meet with Mrs. Fugett near Door 11a to receive their plaque or envelopes.

**Channel 6** - The ceremony will be recorded by the Village of Mokena and broadcast on Channel 6 at a later date. There will not be a live stream of the event.

**The Recessional** - When the ceremony comes to a close, the students will recess the same way they came in. We ask that families stay seated until all of the graduates have left the fieldhouse.

**Diplomas** - Students will not receive their diploma when they cross the stage. They will receive the diploma at Graduation Practice a few days before the ceremony. Be sure to ask them for it on Friday, May 17th. Students receive a diploma cover when they cross the stage.

**Exiting the Stadium** - Once the graduates have exited the fieldhouse they are free to go. Families should meet outside near Door 11a or make arrangements with their graduates at a meeting spot after the ceremony. **We have been asked NOT to congregate in the fieldhouse after the ceremony. There is another graduation ceremony at 2:00 PM so we are asked to try to exit the fieldhouse and parking areas before 1:30 PM.**

We ask that families use caution when driving through the parking lots and pulling out onto the nearby streets. There will be a lot of excited people in the area who may not be paying attention to where they are going. There will also be families anxious to leave the lot and go home to start celebrating. Please drive carefully.

Will County Sheriff's Police will be assisting with security directing traffic to exit the parking areas. Please be courteous to one another and follow all directions from the deputies and school personnel.



# Mokena Junior High School

## District I59

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### Lincoln-Way Central Map

