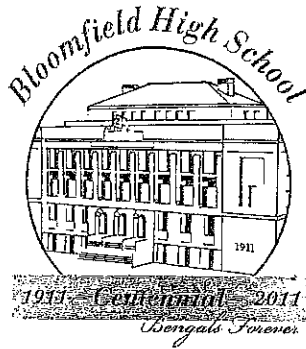


Christopher Jennings
Principal



T. 973-680-8600 ext. 4382
F. 973-680-8684
cjennings@bloomfield.k12.nj.us

June 2017

160 Broad Street
Bloomfield, New Jersey 07003

Dear Parents of Seniors:

A very important time in the lives of high school seniors and their families is upon us. The reality of taking final exams, graduation rehearsals, and the commencement ceremony are before us.

The faculty and staff of the high school have prepared to make graduation a meritorious academic occasion that requires the cooperative efforts of home, school, spectators, and all participants. Commencement 2017 needs to be a joint venture to make the evening a milestone in your sons' and daughters' lives.

Proper decorum will be expected of spectators as well as participants. The graduation committee has spent countless hours in preparation to make the commencement exercises very special for the Class of 2017. All faculty members will be on the field dressed in academic robes and hoods. The class will be led onto the field with a bagpiper and drummer.

I am asking your assistance in helping to make this special time a safe and elegant one. First, I ask as responsible adults that you **do not serve any alcohol to your child or any other student** attending graduation. Second, the use of **air horns** or any other type of **loud noise** device is **not permitted during graduation**. These types of noisemakers only interfere with the overall program. The police will collect any air horns or other noise making devices at the gate. Also, no banners or balloons are allowed in the stands. Lastly, **parents must not call students on their cell phone during the ceremony**. This unnecessary distraction takes away from the dignity of the ceremony.

Seating and picture taking are usually two areas of concern among spectators. Each student will receive four (4) tickets. Every person, regardless of age, will need a ticket to enter graduation. **There are no reserved seats.** In the event of heavy rain, the graduation ceremony will be held in the high school gymnasium and only the (2) red tickets will be honored at the door. In this case, guest parking will be available in the Bloomfield College Parking lot on Austin St. and Liberty St. The administration will make every effort to make a timely decision regarding moving the ceremony indoors in case of inclement weather. Members of the Bloomfield Police Department will be on duty to assist spectators during the ceremony. Please follow their directions.

Educating the Leaders of Tomorrow

To address parents' concerns for getting acceptable graduation photographs, Grad Images has been hired to photograph each graduate receiving a diploma and will mail a wallet size proof to each graduate at no charge and with no obligation. Additional photographs will be available through Grad Images. I am certain that if we allow the photographers to do their work, parents can enjoy the ceremony.

Commencement is a privilege and those who participate are to observe procedures so that the occasion will be a memorable one. The ceremony is scheduled for **Thursday, June 22nd 7:00 p.m. at Foley Field** and is preceded by a procession of seniors from the high school to the field, via Belleville Avenue.

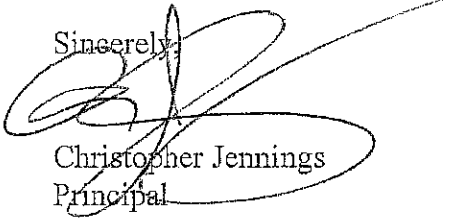
Seniors are to be aware of the following required procedures if they wish to participate in the commencement ceremony:

1. Attendance at each rehearsal is mandatory unless excused by the principal.
2. Students must exhibit appropriate cooperative behavior during rehearsals and throughout the entire ceremony.
3. Proper attire must be worn under academic robes. Women are to wear dresses, skirts, or dress slacks and blouses. Appropriate shoes must be worn (no flip flops). Men are to wear shirts, ties, dress slacks and appropriate shoes (no flip flops).
4. Class of 2017 stoles should be pinned or velcroed to their robe.
5. Mortarboards must be worn properly and be free of decorations.
6. Students must arrive at commencement ceremonies free from the odor and/or influence of alcohol or any dangerous substance.
7. **The use of cellular phones during the procession and the graduation ceremony is strictly prohibited.**

Remember that participating in the graduation ceremony is not a **requirement**; rather, it is a **privilege** extended only to those who follow the rules and procedures.

I look forward to seeing you on **Thursday evening, June 22nd 7:00 P.M. at Foley Field** for the One Hundred and Sixty Third Bloomfield High School Commencement.

Sincerely,



Christopher Jennings
Principal

Bloomfield High School
Commencement 2017

PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS FOR SENIORS

Commencement is a dignified academic occasion. Much time and preparation has been dedicated to make Commencement 2017 a memorable one. The significance of the evening cannot be overemphasized, and it demands responsible behavior from the participants. Commencement is a privilege, and those who are eligible to participate are to observe certain procedures.

Seniors are to be aware of the following required procedures:

- ◆ Exhibit appropriate cooperative behavior from rehearsals through the entire ceremony.
- ◆ Wear proper attire under academic robes. Be sure to take your graduation robe out of the plastic packaging and place it on a hanger to remove wrinkles prior to graduation.
 - Women are to wear dresses, skirts, or dress slacks and blouses with appropriate shoes.
 - Men are to wear dress slacks, dress shirt with collar and ties with appropriate shoes.
 - Jeans, sneakers, and flip flops are unacceptable.
 - **Cell phone use during the procession or ceremony is strictly forbidden.**
 - Flowers should not be worn on academic robes.
- ◆ Seniors must attend all rehearsals unless excused by the Principal.
- ◆ Arrive for Commencement free from the odor and/or influence of alcohol or any other dangerous substance.
- ◆ **Have all fines and obligations paid prior to graduation rehearsal. Seniors who have outstanding debts will not be permitted to participate in the graduation ceremony. For more information call (973) 680-8600 ext. 4128.**

Any senior who does not follow these procedures will forfeit their privilege of participating in graduation.

Important Dates:

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| Wednesday, June 21st | Mandatory Graduation Rehearsal at BHS beginning 7:45 A.M. to 12:15 P.M. in the Main Gym. Cap, Gown and Ticket Distribution
Students must bring \$30.00 in cash to pay for cap and gown. |
| Thursday, June 22nd | Mandatory Graduation Rehearsal beginning at BHS at 7:45 A.M. to 12:15 P.M. in the Main Gym and ending at Foley Field.
Graduation Luncheon at Foley Field given by Home & School Association
Commencement – Arrive at Bloomfield High School at 5:30 P.M. |

Dismissal times from practice are flexible. The Graduation Committee has volunteered countless hours over the course of the year to make your Commencement a memorable one. We are very proud of you and are confident that you will be patient as the graduation procedures are perfected.

Commencement Agenda:

- ◆ Please arrive at BHS at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday evening, June 22nd carrying your academic robe, sash, and mortarboard. Report directly to your designated staging area where teachers will assist you with your robe, sash, and mortarboard.

Mortarboards are to be worn properly. The front and back are clearly indicated on each cap. The plane of the square top of the mortarboard must be parallel to the floor. The tassel must be worn draped over the left front quarter of the cap. Mortarboards must not be decorated.

Sashes are worn with the Class of 2017 printing facing the front. Please remember to pin or velcro these down.

Do not leave valuables in the school. They should be left with your parents. You will not regain access to BHS after the ceremony to retrieve any items such as keys or pocketbooks.

- ◆ **Please inform your family and friends of the following:**

Spectators will be allowed into the field at 6:00 P.M. for graduation. We are asking all audience members to refrain from bringing any bags to graduation. All bags will be subject to search. **Each student is issued four (4) guest tickets. Extra tickets are not available and all guests entering Foley Field, regardless of age, are required to have a ticket.**

Cell phone use is strictly prohibited from the time seniors leave the high school until the end of the ceremony.

- ◆ **IN THE EVENT OF RAIN, THERE WILL BE AN INDOOR GRADUATION IN THE HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM.**

In case of inclement weather, the ceremony will be held inside the high school gymnasium. Due to limited space, each graduate will be permitted only two (2) red guest tickets. Guest parking will be available in the Bloomfield College parking lot on Austin St. and Liberty St.

Diplomas will be issued on Friday, June 23rd in the Central Office after 9:00 a.m. You MUST present a photo ID in order to receive your diploma. All final obligations must be paid in full in order to be allowed to participate in commencement exercises.