

CLASS OF 2024 YEAR-END SENIOR EVENTS & GRADUATION GUIDELINES

Congratulations on your upcoming graduation! We are giving you the following guidelines so that graduation will be a proud memory for all graduates.

ONLINE CLASSES COMPLETION

Students who are taking online classes and intend to participate in the June 4th graduation ceremony must have assignments and DBAs completed no later than **Sunday, April 28, 2024, at 11:59PM** and exams completed no later than **Friday, May 3, 2024, at 11:59PM**.

SENIOR BREAKFAST

All senior students are invited to attend the annual Senior Breakfast on **Tuesday, May 28, 2024**, at **The Bethany Center** from **9AM-12PM**. Students will be required to dress in business casual attire. This would include dress pants, dress-shirt with tie, socks and dress shoes, sandals, a dress, skirt, blouse, or pants suit. Jeans, shorts, shirts without a collar, tennis shoes, slides, slippers and flip-flops will not be permitted, and students will be sent home to change if they come to the event dressed in this manner.

GRADUATION PRACTICE & SENIOR CHECKOUT

Graduation Practice and Senior Checkout will be held on **Thursday, May 23, 2024, from 8:00AM – 10:00AM** and **Friday, May 24, 2024, from 8:00AM – 10:00AM** at Sunlake High School. Attendance on both days is **MANDATORY** for participation in graduation. Senior Checkout will be conducted on both days, with final checkout held on the second day. **Students should not plan to leave until 10:00AM as students will not be allowed to leave any earlier than 10:00AM**. Only students who properly check out and attend graduation practice can participate in the graduation ceremony. The administrator in charge of graduation (Mr. Elias) **MUST** review and approve any extenuating circumstances. *Students must be dressed according to the Pasco County School District Dress Code. Students will be sent home to change if they are out of dress code thereby jeopardizing their participation in graduation.* Cap & Gown distribution and Senior Checkout will take place at the conclusion of the second day of graduation practice for those who have come for both days. There is no exception to this policy.

While we hope it does not become necessary, diplomas may be held for any student not following the guidelines set forth at any point through the graduation ceremony.

CEREMONY (LIVE AND ONLINE VIA STREAMING)

The graduation ceremony will be held on **Tuesday, June 4th at 1:00PM**. It will begin ***promptly*** at 1:00PM. **Seniors are to report at 12:00PM** to the University of South Florida Yuengling Center in Tampa to line up for the ceremony. Please follow the signs upon entering the University of South Florida Yuengling Center, as they will direct students and guests to the areas in which they should go. **Graduates should enter the Corral**, which is to the left of Gate A/the Gate A Annex and all friends and family members should enter at Gate A, B or C. **Only school personnel and graduates are allowed in the Corral.** There will be a livestream of the ceremony with the web address on the Pasco County Schools website.

DRESS EXPECTATIONS

Dress Code for Graduates: Dress pants and dress shirt with tie, a dress or skirt and blouse or pantsuit are recommended outfits. Dress-shoes or sandals are recommended. Students choosing to wear high heels should note that they will be traversing numerous staircases and walking long distances at the Yuengling Center.

Personal Items: Leave purses, cameras, and personal items with a parent or friend in the audience; they may not be taken in during the processional. Flowers or corsages are NOT permitted on the court area of the Yuengling Center so please save those items for after the ceremony.

Graduation Gowns: Please carry your cap and gown into the University of South Florida Yuengling Center. We will not have extra gowns on hand. Make sure that you bring yours to the ceremony. Gowns are to remain as they were when received from the company as nothing extra may be added to them. We do recommend steaming or hanging the gown prior to the ceremony to remove the fold marks from packaging.

Graduation Cap: The mortarboard (graduation cap) is to be worn flat with the tassel over the right eye. Once the seniors are declared graduates, the tassel is moved to the left side in unison with the class. Mortarboards may be decorated in a tasteful manner so long as the decorations do not exceed the area of the top and do not hang down the sides. Ms. Camper, Ms. Hall, and Mr. Elias are the adults who can approve decorations. We will not have extra caps or tassels on hand. Make sure that you bring yours to the ceremony.

Failure to comply with the dress policy may result in the student not participating in the ceremony. Security will do a visual search of all graduates and guests to the University of South Florida Yuengling Center.

BEHAVIOR

Graduation is a momentous occasion for seniors, their parents, families, and friends. For that reason, the ceremony is to be held with dignity and courtesy to others. **All participants must behave appropriately for the occasion, including walking across the stage.**

All participants must comply with the Pasco County Student Code of Conduct. Inappropriate behavior will result in students and parents meeting with the school administration at a later date in order to receive a diploma.

Improper noises and distractions will not be permitted. This includes, but is not limited to, noisemakers such as bullhorns, air horns, whistles, cowbells, and firecrackers, etc. Do NOT bring in beach balls, silly string, or any item that would be deemed inappropriate. As a courtesy to other graduates and their families and friends we ask that you remain seated throughout the ceremony, except when it is appropriate to stand (during the Pledge of Allegiance, for example). No one, other than graduates and designated guests, is permitted in the seating area for graduates.

Anyone under the influence of alcohol or drugs will not participate in the ceremony, will need to contact the school to receive a diploma and will be turned over to appropriate law enforcement officials. As this is a School District of Pasco County event, alcohol will not be permitted inside of any of the areas in the University of South Florida Sun Dome dedicated to the graduation ceremony.

TRAFFIC TO AND PARKING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA YUENGLING CENTER

Please be advised that the time of arrival for the graduation ceremony for students (12:00PM) will coincide with early afternoon traffic that is very heavy based on the location of the University of South Florida Yuengling Center. Please plan appropriately when leaving your homes and give yourself more than enough time to arrive without incident. Once students and staff have left for the beginning of the ceremony, the students will not be permitted into the seating area for graduates. This is the University of South Florida Yuengling Center security policy and will be strictly enforced. **There is an \$8.00 charge for parking and by credit card only.** There are parking areas throughout the areas around the University of South Florida Sun Dome. Disabled parking is located at Gate A and Gate D, Parking Lot Area 22F.

SECURITY AND BAG POLICIES FOR USF

- No weapons of any kind, no outside food or beverage, no backpacks, or other large bags.
- Personal bags must be smaller than 12"x12"x12" and are subject to search upon entry.
- All cameras are permitted except professional cameras with larger lenses.

SEATING & TICKETS

Seating is unlimited in the University of South Florida Yuengling Center. Tickets will not be necessary as a result. **No one, other than graduates and designated guests, is permitted on the floor partitioned off on the University of South Florida Yuengling Center.** Floor seating is only permitted for invited dignitaries, graduating seniors, performing band members, faculty and staff, and other invited guests. Those permitted on the floor will have tickets and will be listed on pre-approved lists provided to the University of South Florida Yuengling Center. Those who need handicapped seating would be advised to enter Gate A, where there are elevators available. There is handicapped seating available throughout the arena. There is also reserved seating for the hearing impaired.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Gigante Productions (813-907-1078) will photograph each senior individually after exiting the stage. Purchase of these photographs is optional. Gigante Productions will notify seniors via mail when the pictures are ready and all questions regarding these pictures should go to Gigante Productions. Sunlake High School does not receive any of these pictures or information following graduation.

DIPLOMA DISTRIBUTION

Certified diplomas will be distributed alphabetically in the Corral in the same way that students lined up for entrance to the ceremony. **Only students meeting the behavioral requirements during the ceremony will receive their certified diploma.** After receiving diplomas, students will immediately exit the University of South Florida Yuengling Center. We recommend having a pre-arranged meeting place set with your family.