



South Florence High School

Shand Josey, Principal



Dear South Florence Graduate and Family,

May 5, 2023

We look forward to honoring your achievements and celebrating with you during the upcoming graduation season. Congratulations on your accomplishments!

Academic and Attendance Requirements:

Graduates must successfully complete 24 required units and adhere to the district's attendance policy to receive a high school diploma and participate in the graduation ceremony. Students who have excessive absences should enroll in attendance recovery sessions. Attendance recovery takes place every weekday morning from 7:30 - 8:30 am. Students who have an FA (failure to attend) recorded in PowerSchool may not participate in graduation. Students must make up all attendance before May 12th to be eligible for graduation.

Senior Yard Signs:

Florence One is pleased to provide each graduating senior with a "Class of 2023" yard sign. Seniors may pick up their signs May 5th from the commons area between the hours of 11:30 and 2:00 pm. If students are unable to pick up signs on Friday, May 5th, students may stop by the main office the following week to pick up yard signs. We look forward to seeing our Bruin graduates represented throughout our community.

Fees and Senior Checkout: Friday, May 17th from 10:00 until 2:00

To participate in the graduation ceremony, all graduates must attend Senior Checkout Day. Senior Checkout Day is scheduled for Wednesday, May 17, 2023 from 9:00 am until 2:00 pm. During checkout, seniors who have been academically cleared for graduation and have paid all fees will receive graduation tickets, student parking passes for the graduation day, and any honor cords they have earned. Please do not wait until May 17th to pay fees and turn in materials.

Graduates should arrive to pick up graduation tickets at the following times (divided by last name):
9:00 - 10:00 A-E, 10:00 - 11:00 F-K, 11:00 - 12:00 L-S, 12:00 - 1:00 T-Z.

Seniors may begin turning in Chromebooks to the media center during the week of May 8th. Seniors should keep textbooks and Chromebooks until individual final exams are complete. Final chromebook turn in will take place at the exterior door of the media center on May 12th. Textbooks may also be turned in to the main office during school hours during the week of May 8-12. Seniors must pay all outstanding fees, turn in all materials including athletic uniforms, textbooks, Chromebooks/chargers, and any other school owned items no later than May 12th. Students are encouraged to see Mrs. Whitehead in the main office prior to May 12th to pay any outstanding fees.

Graduation Tickets:

Each graduate will receive 13 tickets for the SFHS graduation ceremony. Tickets will be distributed to graduates (or a family member listed in PowerSchool) during Senior Check Out Day. To receive tickets, all fees must be paid in full and all school owned materials must be returned.



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Baccalaureate Service (Optional):

The SFHS Baccalaureate service will take place Sunday, May 21st, at 2:00 PM in the South Florence High School Auditorium. During this ceremony, an inspirational message will be shared by Mr. Johnny Miller, Student Pastor of Palmetto Street Church of God. Graduates should wear caps and gowns for this ceremony. Graduating seniors and Junior Marshals must report to the SFHS media center no later than 1:00 PM on Sunday, May 21, 2023. Guests will report to the auditorium upon arrival for the Baccalaureate service.

Graduation Rehearsal (Required for all seniors participating in the graduation ceremony):

Graduation rehearsal will take place Wednesday, May 24th from 12:30 - 2:30 pm at The Florence Center. Rehearsal allows graduates to become familiar with the graduation process and ensures that every graduate is at ease during the graduation ceremony.

Seniors should wear regular school attire and meet at the Florence Center on Wednesday, May 24th, at 12:30 pm and remain until the end of practice at 2:30 pm. Graduates will park in Gate 3 (South Parking Lot). After parking, graduates will take the path around the Florence Center, walk down the stairs, enter the facility through Door 7 and proceed to the ballroom. Graduates will follow this same parking/entrance procedure for the graduation ceremony. Graduates will take his/her assigned seat in the ballroom while waiting for the procession into the arena for the ceremony. ***Seniors who do not plan on participating in graduation exercises must notify their counselor by May 8, 2023.***

Graduation Attire:

All graduates should wear graduation caps and gowns for the graduation ceremony. Any graduating senior who has not received his/her graduation cap and gown must see Mrs. Cue no later than Monday, May 8th.

Male graduates are expected to wear a button down collared shirt with a tie. Males should wear dress slacks (brown or black) and dress shoes. Females should wear either a dress, skirt or dress slacks and blouses. Females should wear comfortable dress shoes that will allow them to safely walk across the stage. Extremely high heels are discouraged. No graduate may wear jeans, sneakers, crocs, bedroom slippers, or flip flops.

Graduation caps and gowns may not be decorated or altered in any way.

Graduation Seating and Recognition During the Ceremony (Graduates):

The Florence 1 Schools Board of Trustees revised Board Policy IKF-Graduation Requirements in February of 2023. This policy outlines the requirements for recognition as the Valedictorian or Salutatorian, Board of Trustees Scholar, Double Cord, or Single Cord graduates. The updated policy changed the seating practices for graduates. All students will now be seated and called in alphabetical order instead of being grouped by honor designation. Honor graduate designations will still be recognized with medallions or cords as well as printed in the graduation program.



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Graduation Ceremony (Graduate Information):

South Florence Graduation is Thursday, May 25th at 4:00 pm. Graduates are expected to be in the ballroom at the Florence Center no later than 2:00 pm. Doors for graduates open at 1:45 pm. Graduates who arrive late to the ceremony will not be allowed to participate.

Graduates are required to have gowns unzipped before entry to the ballroom for security pre-screening. Please refrain from bringing bags, purses or other items as there will be no items left in the holding area once the procession begins. Upon completion of the ceremony, graduates will exit through Door 7 and continue to the South Parking Lot.

Graduation Ceremony (Guest Information):

All guests, except children under the age of three sitting in a parent's lap, must have a ticket for entry to the ceremony. Doors to the Florence Center will open at 2:30 pm and seating is general admission. Guests are asked to park in the West Lot by entering at Gate 3. Once the West Lot is full, the Florence Center staff will direct overflow parking to the East Lot through Gate 5. Please follow all traffic signs and directions from event staff. Please refrain from parking in neighboring business parking lots.

Upon entering the Florence Center, guests will enter through designated doors and must go through a safety pre screening process. **The Florence Center does not allow flowers, banners, balloons, noise makers, or posters. In addition, food and drinks are prohibited. Please note that the F1S Clear Bag Policy will be enforced.**

Guests are asked to remain seated during the ceremony. Late arrivals to the ceremony will not be permitted to enter the arena until the graduation processional is complete. Guests are not allowed onto the arena floor before, during, or after the ceremony. To allow every graduate to be recognized and have his/her name heard, we ask that guests hold applause until all graduates have been recognized. This is a formal ceremony and the expectation is that all guests maintain proper decorum.

The South Florence graduation ceremony will be live streamed on May 25, 2023 via the following link: <https://www.f1s.org/graduation>

Again, congratulations on your outstanding academic achievement. I encourage you to take full advantage of all the senior activities that are planned to celebrate YOU over the next few weeks! This is a special time in your life, and you have worked hard for your achievements. I am honored to be your principal and I am incredibly proud of you and your accomplishments.

Sincerely,

Shand Josey

Principal

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