

Greetings WFHS Seniors,

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 and after school from 3:40 pm - 4:40 pm. Seniors will also have attendance recovery Monday, May 15th through Friday, May 19th from 8:00 am to 3:30 pm in the media center. Students who have an FA (failure to attend) recorded in PowerSchool may not participate in graduation. Students must make up all attendance before May 19th 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 media center between the hours of 10:00 am and 2:00 pm. If students are unable to pick up signs on Friday, May 5th, students may stop by the media center the following week to pick up yard signs. We look forward to seeing our West Florence graduates represented throughout our community.

Fees and Senior Checkout: Friday, May 17th from 9:00 until 12:00

Seniors must pay all outstanding fees, turn in athletic uniforms, textbooks, and chromebooks/chargers by May 12th. Please refer to the table below for location and times to turn in these materials.

<u>Checklist</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date and Time</u>
Outstanding Fees	Outside Main Office	May 8 - 12, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
Athletic Uniforms	Gymnasium	May 8 - 12, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
Chromebook/Chargers	Media Center	May 8 - 12, 8:30 am to 3:30 pm
Textbooks	Book Room or Front Office	May 8 - 12, 8:30 am to 3:30 pm

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 12:00 pm. During checkout, seniors who have been academically cleared for graduation and have paid all fees will receive their final transcript, report card, 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.**

Graduation Tickets:

Each graduate will receive **13** tickets for the WFHS graduation ceremony. Tickets will be distributed to graduates (or a family member listed in PowerSchool) during Senior Check-Out Day on May 17th from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. In order to receive tickets, all fees must be paid in full and all school-owned materials must be returned. Graduates or their designee must present either a current student ID or driver's license in order to pick up graduation tickets.

Baccalaureate Services (Optional):

The WFHS Baccalaureate service will take place Sunday, May 21st, at 2:00 pm in the West Florence High School Auditorium. During this ceremony, an inspirational message will be shared with seniors and families. Graduates should wear caps and gowns for this ceremony. Graduating seniors and Junior Marshals must report to the WFHS media center no later than 1:00 pm. on Sunday, May 21st. Guests will report to the auditorium upon arrival for the Baccalaureate service.

The Baccalaureate service is a wonderful opportunity for graduates and families to take graduation photos on the WFHS campus prior to our graduation.

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

Graduation rehearsal will take place Wednesday, May 24 from 4:30 - 6:30 pm at the Florence Center. Rehearsal allows graduates to become familiar with the graduation process and ensures that every graduate is at ease for the May 26th graduation ceremony.

Seniors should wear their shoes they are planning to wear during graduation for practice. Students must be seated in their assigned seat in the ballroom at the Florence Center on Wednesday, May 24th, at 4:15 pm and remain until the end of practice at 6:30 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. To participate in the ceremony, candidates must be present for practice. ***Seniors who do not plan on participating in graduation exercises must notify Britton Yarborough by May 9, 2023.***

Graduation Ceremony (Graduate Information):

West Florence Graduation is Friday, May 26th at 10:00 am. Graduates are expected to be at the Florence Center no later than 8:30 am. Graduates who arrive late to the ceremony will not be allowed to participate.

Graduates will be given a parking pass that needs to be displayed in their car window to 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 take his/her assigned seat in the ballroom while waiting for the procession into the arena for the ceremony. Please see the attached map for more information.

Graduates are required to have gowns unzipped prior to entry to the Ballroom for security pre-screening. Please refrain from bringing bags, purses, or other items, 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 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.

Graduation Attire:

All graduates should wear graduation caps and gowns for the graduation ceremony. Graduating seniors should have already ordered their caps and gown. Any graduating senior who has not received his or her graduation attire needs to see Mr. Donor in the Media Center no later than Tuesday, May 9th.

Male graduates are expected to wear a white 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 blouse. Females should wear comfortable dress shoes that will allow them to safely walk across the stage. Extremely high heels are discouraged. Graduates may not wear jeans, sneakers, crocs, bedroom slippers, or flip-flops. Graduation caps and gowns may not be decorated or altered in any way. Graduates may wear approved stoles and honor cords for the ceremony.

Graduation Ceremony (Guest Information):

All guests are required to have a ticket for entry. Guests ages 3 and under that are seated in an adult's lap are permitted without a ticket. Doors to the Florence Center will open at 8:30 am and seating is general admission. Guests are asked to park in the West Lot, Gate 3. Overflow parking will be in the East Lot through gate 5. Please follow all traffic signs and event staff directions. Please refrain from parking in neighboring business parking lots.

Upon entering the Florence Center, guests will enter through designated doors and participate in a 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 or after the ceremony.

In order to allow every graduate to be recognized and have his/her name heard, we ask that guests hold applause until each group of graduates has been recognized. This is a formal ceremony and the expectation is that all guests maintain proper decorum.

The West Florence graduation ceremony will be live streamed on May 26, 2023 via the following link:

<https://www.f1s.org/graduation>

Sincerely,

Matthew Dowdell
Principal
West Florence HS

Senior Week Activities:

WFHS SENIOR WEEK 2023

THE COUNTDOWN TO GRADUATION!
MAY 12TH-17TH

FRI 12TH	THE WKND	MON 15TH	TUES 16TH	WED 17TH
 DECISION DAY 10 AM-11:30 AM IN GYM POWDER PUFF GAME AT 5:30 @ KNIGHT STADIUM	<i>13th & 14th</i> <i>Mothers Day Weekend</i>	 SENIOR AWARDS NIGHT AT 6PM @ AUDITORIUM SENIOR SUNSET AT 7 PM @ KNIGHT STADIUM	 SENIOR SUNRISE AT 7 AM @ KNIGHT STADIUM 	 SENIOR CHECKOUT 9 AM-11:30 AM FIELD DAY & COOKOUT 11:30 AM-2:30 PM

Class of 2023 Senior Walk

<u>May 22nd</u>	<u>May 23rd</u>
<p><u>8:15 am</u> Lester McLaurin Royall</p> <p><u>8:30 am</u> Delmae</p> <p><u>12:15 pm</u> Lucy T. Davis</p> <p><u>12:45 pm</u> Timrod</p> <p><u>1:00 pm</u> Greenwood</p>	<p><u>8:00 am</u> Savannah Grove</p> <p><u>8:30 am</u> Wallace Gregg</p> <p><u>12:45 pm</u> Carver Briggs</p> <p><u>1:15 pm</u> Dewey L. Carter</p> <p><u>1:30 pm</u> Moore</p>