

South Fayette High School

3640 Old Oakdale Road • McDonald, PA 15057-2580
Phone (412) 221-4542 • Fax (724) 693-9843 • www.southfayette.org
Dr. Dirda, Ext. 242 Mr. Butts, Ext. 265



Dr. Natasha K. Dirda
High School Principal
nkdirda@southfayette.org

Mr. Robert L. Butts
High School Assistant Principal
rbutts@southfayette.org

April 8, 2024

Dear South Fayette Class of 2024 Students and Families,

On behalf of South Fayette Township School District, we are extremely excited to recognize our Class of 2024 at our annual Commencement ceremony. Over the next few weeks, there are many exciting events and traditions that we have planned for our seniors. Our priority is to celebrate and recognize each of our students as they approach the end of their time as students of South Fayette and we are hopeful that this will be one of the most memorable times of their life. Our Class of 2024 Commencement ceremony will be held at our South Fayette Stadium, and we cannot wait to celebrate and recognize each and every member of our graduating class!

This communication provides an overview of seniors' end of year activities with important dates and information for you and your family. It also provides an overview of our expectations for seniors and emphasizes the necessity to meet all final obligations prior to receiving their diploma.

IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS:

April

2024:

- **Wednesday, April 10** - Senior Exit Interviews (In-Person)
- **Wednesday, April 24** - National Honor Society Ceremony, High School Theatre, 7:00 p.m.
- **Thursday, April 25** - Spring Chorus and Orchestra Concert, High School Theatre, 7:00 p.m.
- **Monday, April 29** - "Best of Our Best" Awards Night, High School Theatre, 7:00 p.m. (By invitation only)

May 2024:

- **Tuesday, May 2** - Spring Band-O-Rama Concert (Grades 6-12), High School Theatre, 7:00 p.m.
- **Monday, May 6 - Friday, May 17** - Advanced Placement (AP) Exams
- **Wednesday, May 22** - Makeup AP Exams
- **Tuesday, May 7 - Cap/Gown/Tassel Distribution** - Seniors will pick up their caps and gowns during lunches in the Student Activities Office (AC107 - located behind the Commons next to Mrs. Quirk's classroom) along with information outlining graduation details and rehearsal information. Pickup for cyber students will start Wednesday, May 8th in the Main Office. **For seniors who did not order their cap and gown through Jostens, the school ordered one for them and payment will need to be made to "Jostens" upon receipt. Checks only. No cash. Please submit payment to the High School Main Office.*

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- **Wednesday, May 8** - High/Middle School Jazz Ensemble and Percussion Concert, High School Theatre, 7:00 p.m.

IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS (cont.):

- **Friday, May 10** - Prom - Gateway Clipper Fleet, Registration 5:00 p.m.
- **Monday, May 13** - Starting the week of May 13th, any senior with an Independent Study class will meet with Mr. Butts to present their final work for that class.
- **Thursday, May 23** - Senior School-Issued Laptop Turn-In - Return of school-issued laptop, case and charger must be returned to the seniors' Economics teacher in the classroom. *Diplomas will not be issued if all equipment is not returned.
- **Friday, May 24** - Seniors' Last Day of School
- **Friday, May 24** - Senior Appreciation Tours (ES, IS and MS) **This is optional for seniors - Details to follow from Mr. Smith, Senior Advisor*
- **Friday, May 24** - Senior Waffle Breakfast (Commons), followed by Keynote Speaker Mr. Arthur Moats, former NFL Football Player, previous member of the Pittsburgh Steelers and South Fayette Resident (Theatre). The Principals will also meet with all seniors following the speaker.
- **Monday, May 27** - Memorial Day (No School)
- **Tuesday, May 28** - Final makeup work day turn-in and all senior obligations due by the end of the day.
- **Wednesday, May 29** - Senior Class Picnic, Scott Township Park (during the school day) - Note - Seniors will report to the high school in the morning and will be transported by bus to the park. More details will be forthcoming.
- **Thursday, May 30** - All outstanding work and all other final obligations must be met by 7:20 a.m. Obligations will not be accepted during the mandatory rehearsals or at the Commencement ceremony. *Diplomas will not be issued if these obligations are not met.
- **Thursday, May 30** - Mandatory Commencement Rehearsal and "Senior Walk" - Seniors to report at 7:20 a.m. in the High School Gymnasium, then will proceed to the Stadium to rehearse. If inclement weather, rehearsal will be moved to the High School Theatre. Seniors are asked to bring their cap and gown to rehearsal to wear for the "Senior Walk". Beginning at 9:45 a.m., the Senior Class will process through the Middle School, then followed by the Elementary and Intermediate Schools and will return to the Stadium. Rehearsal should end by approximately 1:00 p.m. All seniors must be present at rehearsals to participate in graduation. Students who are not present will not be permitted to participate in the ceremony.
- **Thursday, May 30** - Baccalaureate Ceremony, Theatre, 7:00 p.m.
- **Friday, May 31** - Additional Mandatory Commencement Rehearsal - Seniors should report to the Gymnasium promptly by 7:20 a.m. Seniors should bring water, sunscreen, a snack, and an umbrella. All seniors must be present at rehearsals to participate in graduation. Students who are not present will not be permitted to participate in the ceremony.
- **Friday, May 31** - Senior Parade, Campus, 6:00-8:00 p.m. *(Details to follow)*

June 2024:

- **Monday, June 3** - Senior Sunset Event, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Stadium Parking Lot (more details will be forthcoming)
- **Tuesday, June 4** - 96th Commencement Graduation Ceremony, 7:00 p.m., High School Stadium. **All seniors must report promptly to their assigned area (either the Stadium or the Middle School Gym), no later than 6:00 p.m.* Teachers will greet the seniors at the entrances, take attendance, and assist with grouping and lineup. Seniors will need to leave all belongings with their parent/guardian(s) (purses, phones, makeup, cameras, etc.). Please bring the

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minimal necessities! Seniors will be given only a few minutes to get ready and then the procession lineup will quickly begin under the bleachers with the High School administration, faculty, and staff.

- **Wednesday, June 5 or Thursday, June 6** - Possible Alternative Commencement Dates, Time TBD (Please see Inclement Weather Contingency Plan.)
- **Thursday, June 20** - South Fayette School District's Kennywood Picnic Day

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

1. **Seating Information** - The graduation ceremony will be held at the South Fayette Stadium. Tickets are not required for admission. All visitors will sit in the bleachers. **No reserved seating.** The handicapped areas are located at the top of the bleachers. For safety reasons and the respect of all people in attendance, we are requesting, during the Commencement ceremony, that all visitors please limit the activity (i.e. loud noises, running around, disruptive behavior, throwing of balls, etc.) in the breezeway/concourse area at the top of the bleachers. Also, we ask for visitors not to enter the stadium field or stand on the stairs located at the bottom of the bleachers during the ceremony to take pictures.

2. **Ceremony Pictures and Video** - The ceremony will also be "streamed" live online. That information will be provided closer to Commencement. The school photographer will take a picture as the student receives their diploma. Ordering information will be provided to the seniors and families. The ceremony will also be videotaped and a link of the ceremony will be uploaded and shared on the SF Media YouTube Channel.

3. **Diplomas** - Diplomas will be issued to those students who have completed all requirements. After the ceremony, the diplomas will be available for the graduates to pick up in the small Stadium Concession Stand in the breezeway area. If you are unable to pick up your diploma after the ceremony, they will be available in the High School Main Office during office hours starting Wednesday, June 5.

4. **Participation** - All students participating in graduation **must be present at all rehearsals.** **Students who are disruptive in any way at graduation rehearsal will relinquish their right to participate in the graduation ceremony. Parents will be promptly notified if this should occur. Students who are disruptive in any way during the ceremony will be removed. *Any student who attends Commencement while under the influence of alcohol and/or illegal drugs will be turned over to their parents/guardians and will not be permitted to participate in Commencement.*

5. **Cap, Gown, Tassel and Honor Cords** – In keeping with tradition, our seniors will have the option to wear white or green caps and gowns for the ceremony. It is suggested that under the white gowns, seniors should wear white or light-colored clothing. Flip-flops of any kind are not permitted to be worn. This is a special ceremony and seniors should dress appropriately, e.g., dress slacks, shirt and tie, dress/skirt, dress shoes, etc. Students will not be permitted to participate in the graduation ceremony if they are wearing shorts, jeans, t-shirts, tennis shoes or any other inappropriate attire. Students will be permitted to wear school-approved honor cords with their graduation attire. No other cords will be permitted.

**No student may alter the traditional cap and gown in any way or add any markings, insignias, or additional items of any kind.*

6. **Obligations** - All financial obligations must be met. An obligation report will be provided to the seniors. Students will not be issued a diploma until all accounts are cleared. This includes the payment of all library fines, the return of all textbooks, the payment of any outstanding fundraising monies for activities, the resolution of any outstanding balances with the food service department, return of their laptop, etc. Once all obligations are met, you may pick up your diploma after the ceremony or from the High School Main Office.

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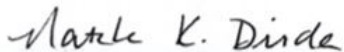
7. **Ineligibility** - Students who are failing **more** than two classes will not be eligible to participate in the graduation ceremony. Students failing **two or less classes** may participate but will not be issued a diploma. To receive a diploma from South Fayette, credits must be completed by Friday, August 9, 2024.

INCLEMENT WEATHER CONTINGENCY PLAN:

If inclement weather is forecasted, High School Administration will communicate with families, students, and personnel assisting with the ceremony by 5:00 p.m. if we need to delay or reschedule our Commencement ceremony. If the ceremony cannot be held on Tuesday, June 4 due to inclement weather, we plan to hold Commencement on Wednesday, June 5 at 7:00 p.m. or Thursday, June 6 at 7:00 p.m. based upon the weather forecast.

We are extremely proud of each one of our Seniors and we are looking forward to this special time for you and families. We look forward to celebrating our South Fayette Class of 2024 and your many achievements and accomplishments! These upcoming weeks will be filled with unforgettable memories, marking the culmination of your journey at South Fayette and the beginning of the next chapter in your lives. Embrace this special time with pride and joy – South Fayette Class of 2024 – you have earned every moment of it!

With deep Lion Pride,



Dr. Natasha K. Dirda
High School Principal



Mr. Robert L. Butts
High School Assistant Principal