



South Fayette High School

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April 24, 2025

Dear South Fayette Class of 2025 Students and Families,

On behalf of South Fayette Township School District, we are extremely excited to recognize our Class of 2025 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 lives. Our Class of 2025 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 2025:

- **Tuesday, April 29** - Spring Chorus and Orchestra Concert, High School Theatre, 7:00 p.m.
- **Wednesday, April 30** - "Best of Our Best" Awards Night, High School Theatre, 7:00 p.m. *(By invitation only)*

May 2025:

- **Thursday, May 1** - High/Middle School Jazz Ensemble and Percussion Concert, High School Theatre, 7:00 p.m.
- **Friday-Saturday, May 2-3** - SFHS Mini-Thon Event, High School Gymnasium, 6:00 p.m.
- **Monday, May 5 - Friday, May 16** - Advanced Placement (AP) Exams *(Makeup AP Exams - May 19, 21, 23)*
- **Wednesday, May 7 - Cap/Gown/Tassel Distribution** - Seniors will pick up their caps and gowns during lunches in the lower AC hallway behind the Commons, along with information outlining graduation details and rehearsal information. Pickup for cyber students will start on Thursday, 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 of \$67.00 will need to be made to "Jostens" upon receipt. Checks only. No cash. Please submit payment to the High School Main Office.*
- **Thursday, May 8** - Spring Band-O-Rama Concert, High School Theatre, 7:00 p.m.
- **Friday, May 9** - Prom - The Westin Pittsburgh, Registration 5:00 p.m. Ends at 10:30 p.m.
- **Tuesday, May 13** - Parkway West CTC's Senior Recognition Ceremony - Robert Morris University, 6:00 p.m.
- **Wednesday-Friday, May 14-16** - Asynchronous Days for all students not taking the Keystone Exams
- **Monday, May 26** - Memorial Day (No School)
- **Wednesday, May 28** - 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.*

In partnership with the community, the mission of the South Fayette Township School District, a leader in innovation, is to elevate academic, artistic, and athletic excellence of the whole learner by inspiring the strength to be dynamic, ethical, and empathetic citizens who flourish in a global society.

IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS (cont.):

- **Wednesday, May 28** - Baccalaureate Ceremony, Theatre, 7:00 p.m.
- **Wednesday, May 28** - Final makeup work day turn-in and all senior obligations due by the end of the day.
- **Thursday, May 29** - Seniors' Last Day of School
- **Thursday, May 29** - 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.
- **Week of May 27 - May 29** - Senior Appreciation Tours (ES, IS and MS). **This is optional for seniors - Dates and specific details to follow from Mr. Smith, Senior Advisor*
- **Friday, May 30** - 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.
- **Saturday, May 31** - SFHS Student Government "Glow Run" Event, Stadium, 5:00 p.m.

June 2025:

- **Monday, June 2** - 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.*
- **Monday, June 2** - 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, followed by the Elementary and Intermediate Schools, and will return to the Stadium. Rehearsal should end by approximately 12:00 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.
Students/parents/guardians should contact Dr. Dirda and Mrs. Holley if you are not planning to participate in our Class of 2025 Commencement ceremony.
- **Monday, June 2** - Senior Parade, Campus, 6:00-8:00 p.m. *(Details to follow)*
- **Tuesday, June 3** - 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.
- **Tuesday, June 3** - Senior Sunset Event, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Stadium Parking Lot *(Details to follow)*
- **Wednesday, June 4** - 97th Commencement Graduation Ceremony, 7:00 p.m., High School Stadium. **All seniors must report promptly to their assigned area (details will be shared with all seniors in the future), no later than 5:45 p.m.* Teachers will greet our seniors, 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 minimal necessities! Seniors will be given only a few minutes to get ready and then the procession lineup will begin.
- **Thursday, June 5 or Friday, June 6** - Possible Alternative Commencement Dates, Time TBD *(Please see Inclement Weather Contingency Plan.)*
- **Wednesday, June 18** - 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 in the breezeway/concourse area at the top of the bleachers (i.e. loud noises, running around, disruptive behavior, throwing of balls, etc.). 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** - Seniors will receive their diplomas as they cross the stage during the Commencement ceremony. Diplomas will be issued to students who have completed all graduation requirements.
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.

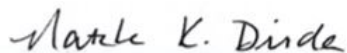
**No student may alter the traditional cap and gown in any way or add any markings, insignias, or additional items of any kind.*
6. **Obligations** - All financial obligations must be met. An obligation report will be provided to the seniors. Students will not be issued a diploma until all accounts are 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 school-issued laptop, etc. Once all obligations are met, you may pick up your diploma after the ceremony or from the High School Main Office.
7. **Ineligibility** - Our SFHS Administration works with individual students and families in the event that a student has not met the criteria to participate in our Commencement ceremony.

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 Wednesday, June 4 due to inclement weather, we plan to hold Commencement on Thursday, June 5 or Friday, June 6 at 7:00 p.m. based on 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 your families. We look forward to celebrating our South Fayette Class of 2025 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 2025 – you have earned every moment of it!**

With DEEP Lion Pride,



Dr. Natasha K. Dirda
High School Principal



Mr. Thomas J. Salopek
High School Assistant Principal