

Graduation Info for the NMHS Class of 2020

Due to the COVID-19 closures, several adjustments have had to be made due to the restrictions we are all facing. It is very important for seniors to continually check the school website along with the Google Classroom for seniors (2020 Seniors – class code “rrsrzdl”) to make sure you have all of the information that you need.

The Baccalaureate Ceremony that was planned for Sunday, May 31 has had to be cancelled. We have two options this year for an actual graduation ceremony along with a virtual graduation option. The first option for the actual graduation ceremony is on our original date, Saturday, June 6 at 9:00 a.m. Based on what we now know, it is highly unlikely that we will be able to meet for large gatherings at that time. If the restrictions have not been lifted by June 6, the actual graduation ceremony will be postponed until Wednesday, July 22 at 9:00 a.m. in hopes that we will be permitted to have large group gatherings by then. If we have to move the actual graduation ceremony to July 22, we will have the virtual graduation on Saturday, June 6. We will broadcast the virtual graduation ceremony at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 6. The virtual ceremony will consist of video recordings of presenter’s speeches and each graduate will have their name read as their picture is shown on the screen. At the conclusion of the broadcast, seniors will be able to pick up their diplomas. This will take place in a drive-through ceremony on the home side parking lot at Memorial Stadium.

Seniors must have fulfilled all STAAR testing requirements and earned all credits required for graduation in order to participate in the graduation ceremony and receive their diploma. Seniors must also clear their records of all equipment, technology, and textbooks that have been issued to them or make full payment for these items before they can receive their diploma. Students who are not able to pick up their diploma on June 6 will need to contact the school and make arrangements to either pick it up at a later date or have it mailed to them.

One change that has been made this year is regarding the graduation gown that seniors receive from Josten’s. Every other year, seniors have to turn their gown back in after the graduation ceremony since our district uses the heavier, choir-type gown that is very expensive. Because we weren’t sure if we would be able to even have a ceremony this year, the district worked with Josten’s to provide a “keeper robe” that seniors will not have to turn back in after the ceremony.

Cap & Gown Delivery

This will take place on Monday, May 18 from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Seniors will be assigned a specific time according to their last name. That information will be sent out closer to the date. All payments to Josten’s must be made prior to this date in order to pick up items on May 18.

Seniors who haven’t yet ordered their cap & gown need to contact Josten’s at 214-321-4100 or go to Jostens.com. The website is very easy to use. Just type in our school name and it will show you all of the available packages. They range in price but if all you need is the cap and gown for the ceremony, you can get that for \$49.90.

Graduation Practice

Any senior who plans to participate in the graduation ceremony must attend graduation practice. Our practice date is set for Friday, June 5 at 8:00 a.m. Seniors should arrive at the Curtis Culwell Event Center in Garland by 7:15 a.m. Practice will last until 9:00 a.m. Seniors should wear their blue senior shirts and be in school dress code. Boys will have to be clean shaven to participate in practice and the graduation ceremony.

In the likely event that the graduation ceremony has to be moved to July 22, these same instructions will be followed for practice on Tuesday, July 21.

Graduation Ceremony

Seniors will need to be dropped off in the rear parking lot at North Mesquite High School by 5:30 a.m. on the morning of Saturday, June 6. Since the Curtis Culwell Event Center requires everyone to go through metal detectors before entering, including graduates, seniors need to leave cell phones and keys with family members. Seniors need to follow the dress expectations and have their cap, tassel, stole and gown when they are dropped off at the school. Seniors will be transported to the Curtis Culwell Event Center in air-conditioned charter busses as a group. Following the ceremony, graduates will be expected to leave with family members.

In the likely event that the graduation ceremony has to be moved to July 22, these same instructions will be followed on Wednesday, July 22.

Miscellaneous Graduation info:

- Do not decorate your graduation cap.

All equipment and materials issued to seniors must be returned and all fines paid before students can pick up their diploma. The school is setting up a system for parents to pay money owed online. Please see the [school website](#) for updates on this.

- Dress guidelines for graduation ceremony:
 - Females: Nice dresses or dark pant suits with dark-colored, low-heeled dress shoes.
 - Males: Dark dress slacks, white dress shirts and dark ties with dark-colored dress shoes.
 - All graduates will wear caps and gowns over their dress clothing during the baccalaureate and commencement ceremonies.
- Seniors who did not get their senior picture taken for the yearbook will not have a picture shown on the virtual graduation ceremony. Any of these students should contact Mr. Barber (dbarber@mesquiteisd.org) to make arrangements to get a picture submitted as soon as possible.