Elkhorn South High School

20303 Blue Sage Parkway, Omaha, Nebraska 68130

April 3rd, 2017

Dear Parents and Senior Class of 2017,

I find it incredibly hard to believe that we are rapidly approaching graduation! I will be forever grateful for your support and for the privilege of working with your students over the past four years. My mission for their final Elkhorn South event is to make graduation as smooth and as memorable as possible. I look forward to May 21st, and want to be accessible to you as questions arise. I hope that this letter answers many of your questions, but please feel free to contact me in the main office if you have questions or concerns. Kristi Costello also works closely with graduation and she will be able to answer questions as well. (kcostello@epsne.org)

Graduation Day Schedule:

- Doors open for seating 90 minutes prior to start time. We are the 1:30pm graduation, thus doors open at noon.
- You can save seats, but please be reasonable and save a few seats for immediate family members only. Every seat that you save for someone is one less for another family.
- ESHS Main Gym Capacity is over 2150 including mezzanine bleachers. We have 268 graduates. Please be considerate of other families and limit your saved seats in the gym to immediate family only. Each year, I am asked to give graduates' families "x" number of tickets. I have resisted this idea as I know that families come in all different sizes.
- In my honest opinion, the live-feed in the auditorium, projected on a 29ft high-definition screen is the best seat in the house. The auditorium has backed, padded seats, is better temperature controlled and the videographers use multiple camera angles to deliver an outstanding product. It is similar to watching a professional sporting event in the comfort of your own home. We also project the live-feed into the commons which has all the same benefits of the auditorium, minus the padded seats.
- Graduates report to Auxiliary Gym no later than 12:15 pm.
- Graduates please park in the teacher parking lot (South side of school) and enter through South gym entrance.
- Graduation- 1:30pm
- I would anticipate the ceremony lasting until approximately 3:00pm.

Graduation Ceremony:

- Graduation ceremony is an honorable and respectful academic ceremony that serves as the culmination of the combined efforts of students, parents, teachers and staff. Decorative jewelry, tape, or painted signs or symbols will not be allowed on caps or gowns. The ceremony is a celebration of graduating seniors' accomplishments, but also symbolizes the importance of education in the community of Elkhorn. "Party-like" celebrating during the ceremony is not permitted as it detracts from honoring the overall accomplishments of the graduating class. Quite simply, I'd ask students to remember that it is a graduation ceremony for their entire class and the community, not about individual accomplishments.

Commencement Video/Pictures:

- Mid- America Video Images will be recording the ceremony and will have a display set-up in the commons area on graduation day. Please see the enclosed document for ordering information. Deyo's Photography will be out to take pictures of graduation practice (Class Picture) and during the ceremony. Please see the enclosed document for ordering information.

Graduation Seating:

- Please be aware, there are no reserved seats for parents at the graduation ceremony. Parents are encouraged to arrive early and select seats. Please be respectful of others and only save a handful of seats for immediate family members. We anticipate a large crowd, but believe we have ample seating for all. Please plan on arriving early to accommodate time for traffic and parking. We will have assistance on the property to help the traffic flow.
- In addition to the gymnasium, an additional 730 seats will be available in the auditorium with a multi-camera live video feed. The graduation ceremony will also be projected in the commons area. These areas are comfortable, typically less crowded, temperature-controlled and allow viewers to see close-up video images of students receiving their diplomas, without fighting the crowds. I would encourage families to strongly consider these alternate venues for any guests. The big screens truly do provide a great view of the ceremony in a much more comfortable environment.

Assistance:

- Please contact Kristi Costello (kcostello@epsne.org) if you or a family member is in need of special assistance at the graduation ceremony. We will be happy to provide sign-language interpretation, elevator access, wheel-chair seating, and the like. We want the day to be memorable for all and are here to assist in any way that we can. Please let us know if you are in need of accommodations.

Safe Celebrations:

- Graduation is a special time for seniors and their families. Parent encouragement is appreciated in helping seniors celebrate the occasion in a safe and responsible manner. Student cooperation and parental guidance will help make graduation 2017 a memorable experience for everyone.

Graduation Honors:

- The following Honors will be acknowledged during the graduation ceremony:
  - Seniors earning a 3.25 cumulative (4 year) GPA will wear a gold honor cord
  - NHS Seniors in good standing will wear light blue NHS stole
  - Seniors ranked in the top 5% will be recognized during the ceremony. ESHS does not recognize valedictorian/salutatorian.
  - The Elkhorn Public Schools Foundation ACHIEVE Program is designed to recognize students who engage in academically rigorous coursework while maintaining balance in other areas of interest within our school and community. Graduating seniors should review the ACHIEVE Program Requirements and complete the application for the highest level for which they are eligible. Students are recognized at graduation with an honor cord and receive monetary awards. Applications can be found on the Elkhorn Public Schools Foundation website.
    http://www.elkhornfoundation.org/scholarships/achieve-program/

    Completed applications are due in the Elkhorn South Counseling Center by 3:30 p.m. on April 12, 2017.

  - In order for student Scholarship information to be placed in the Graduation Program as well as in the Omaha World Herald we must have official verification. It is also very important that you submit ALL scholarships you have received, not just the ones you are going to accept. Copies of scholarship letters need to be submitted in the ESHS counseling center by Friday, April 14th. No individual monetary values are published. Contact Mr. Gosnell in the counseling center if you have questions.

The End of Their High School Careers

Graduation Requirements:

- All requirements (course and credit hours) must be completed before the student participates in the graduation ceremony. Since most seniors need their current English course credit, it is especially important that this obligation be met. All students should double check on any incomplete work. Parents, please check PowerSchool and make contact with teachers, counselors and administrators if you feel that your student may be "on the bubble" for meeting graduation requirements. Again, Elkhorn does not have "unsigned" diplomas or "just being part of the ceremony" graduates. Students must meet requirements to be a part of the ceremony.

Check-Out:

- Most Seniors will be issued a check-out slip on Monday, May 15th. The check-out slip must be signed by each student's classroom teachers and returned when they pick up their cap and gown on Wednesday, May 17th. All fines paid in full, dues, books, and equipment must be turned in before students will receive their cap and gown.

Last Day of Classes:

- The last official day of classes for seniors is Wednesday, May 17th. Students may be required to attend after this date until check-out procedures have been satisfactorily completed. Seniors will take finals in periods 5,6,7 on Tuesday, May 16th and in periods 1,2,3,4 on Wednesday, May 17th. At the conclusion of 4th period on Wednesday, seniors will participate in graduation rehearsal. At the successful conclusion of rehearsal, approximately 2pm, caps and gowns will be distributed and seniors will be dismissed for the year.

Attendance:

- Absences are not encouraged before the final day. Any "senior skip" days will be treated as unexcused absences. In addition, please be proactive with communications relating to ESHS attendance policy if a student has exceeded 8 excused absences or 2 unexcused absences during the second semester. Please direct any questions about attendance to Mrs. Britnie Cox, ESHS Assistant Principal.

Senior Picture in Newspaper:

- The **final deadline** to send in your senior's photo for the *Douglas County Post-Gazette's* **Graduation section** is **Friday, April 10**. The Post-Gazette has not received dozens of senior photos and will not be able to include those students in the Graduation section in May. Please email a photo to **editor@dcpostgazette** ASAP and not later than April 10. You can also bring a photo to our office (or mail it), to be scanned at 2929 N. 204th St., Ste 117, Elkhorn NE 68022. For questions, call 402-289-2329 or email editor@dcpostgazette.com.

Honors Night:

- Honors Night will be held in the auditorium on Wednesday, May 17th at 7:00pm. At this time, teachers will recognize several students for outstanding achievement and special honors. Parents are cordially invited to attend this event.

Documents for Post-High School

College Credits Earned:

- If a senior has earned college credits either through dual credit opportunities or through AP test scores, the student is responsible for contacting the institution to have their transcripts sent to the college they plan to attend. The best time to do this is between late May and early June as colleges many times want this info before July 1st. The high school transcript will not suffice as it does not indicate college coursework.

Contact the appropriate college for transcript earned:

- Metro Community College
- University of Nebraska at Omaha
- Nebraska Wesleyan University
- Peru State College

Contact www.collegeboard.com for AP test scores after all tests scores are received.

Transcripts, Grades and Immunizations:

- Immunization Records were mailed home the last week of March.
- The week following graduation, ESHS will mail final grades and transcripts to home address (and secondary addresses as needed). Annually students request copies of these documents during the summer as they begin college activities, for example rushing sororities/fraternities. We mail home in an attempt to save your family from scrambling to get copies over the summer. Please feel free to contact us over the summer if your student needs additional documents. Please note that from July 1 through July 15 only limited contact is available.

AP Testing:

- AP Tests be administered at ESHS between May 1st and May 11th:

Monday, May 1 8:00am	AP Chemistry
Monday, May 1 12:00pm	AP Psychology
Tuesday, May 2 8:00am	AP Spanish Language/Culture
Wednesday, May 3 8:00am	AP English Literature/Comp (12th grade)
Wednesday, May 3 12:00pm	AP Japanese Language/Culture
Thursday, May 4 8:00am	AP Government/Politics
Friday, May 5 8:00am	AP US History
Monday, May 8 8:00am	AP Biology
Tuesday, May 9 8:00am	AP Calculus AB/BC
Wednesday, May 10 8:00am	AP English Language/Comp (11th grade)
Thursday, May 11 8:00am	AP World History
Thursday, May 11 12:00pm	AP Statistics

The administration, teachers and staff at Elkhorn South High School would like to thank all the parents for their commitment to your students and our school. We are excited for their futures and anticipate the years ahead of hearing where their aspirations take them. Undoubtedly, they will travel far and make us even more proud of them than we are today.

Sincerely,

Mark K. Kalvoda

DEYO'S
PHOTOGRAPHY

STUDENT NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS_____

CITY_____ STATE_____ ZIP _____

☐ 5X7 OF INDIVIDUAL	$22
☐ 8X10 OF INDIVIDUAL	$24
☐ 8X10 OF CLASS PHOTO (STUDENTS WILL APPEAR FURTHER AWAY)	$20
☐ 10X20 OR CLASS PHOTO (STUDENTS WILL APPEAR CLOSER)	$25

MUST INCLUDE CHECK OR CASH. PRICES INCLUDE SHIPPING AND HANDLING.

PHOTOS WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE ONLINE ON MAY 22 AT A SLIGHTLY HIGHER PRICE.

TO VIEW: WWW.DEYOSPHOTO.COM, CLICK ON CLIENT, PASSWORD "ELKHORNSOUTH"

402.331.9514 • WWW.DEYOSPHOTO.COM

Mid-America Video Images

Saves the images of today!

Elkhorn Public Schools presents:

GRADUATION 2017

ELKHORN SOUTH

On HD Blu-ray & DVD!

Mid-America Video Images is proud to have been selected to provide you a way to save the memories of Elkhorn South's Graduation 2017. Each Blu-ray/DVD will be a complete three camera, digitally edited version of the complete graduation ceremony with digital stereo sound. EVERY STUDENT WILL BE SHOWN RECEIVING THEIR DIPLOMA! The production will feature a menu that will allow for instant searching of segments of the ceremony. The cost for this DVD is only $30. A High Definition Blu-ray is only $40. Orders received after two weeks of graduation are subject to a $5.00 restocking fee and will take longer to process.

Bring in this order form, with payment, to the order table in the lobby or send this form to:

Mid-America Video Images
3541 N. 2nd
Lincoln, Ne 68521
(402)474-4023

Name_____

Address_____

City_____St_____Zip_____

DVD($30)_____

Blu-ray($40)_____

Late Fee?($5)_____

Total Enclosed_____

Cash Checks Credit/Debit Cards Accepted (Elkhorn South Grad 17)

Card #_____

Expiration Date_____CVV_____(on back of card)

Cardholders Signature_____Zip Code of Credit Card_____