

# Elkhorn South High School

20303 Blue Sage Parkway, Omaha, Nebraska 68130

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April 8th, 2019

Dear Parents and Senior Class of 2019,

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 19<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto:kcostello@epsne.org))

## Graduation Day Schedule:

- ❖ Front Doors open for seating 90 minutes prior to start time. We are the **1:30pm** graduation, thus doors open at 12:00pm.
- ❖ 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 time: 1:30pm
- ❖ I would anticipate the ceremony lasting until approximately 3:00pm.

## Graduation Seating and tickets:

- ❖ ESHS Gymnasium has 1784 seats, none of which are reserved or numbered, etc. There are 311 students in the class, thus, seating will be extremely tight and some guests in the gym may need to stand on the track. We appreciate your cooperation as we work to ticket graduation. Please know that we are ticketing the event to make it a more enjoyable, less stressful day for all of our families.
- ❖ After graduation practice on Wednesday, May 15th students will be given their families' graduation tickets. The set of 6 tickets per family are for entry into the Main Gym at graduation. These tickets are General Admission in nature, with no reserved seating. A live feed of the ceremony is projected in the commons and the auditorium for additional guests. We also live stream the event online. A link will be sent to families the week of graduation.
- ❖ We know that families come in different sizes, thus families are welcome to share unused as needed.
- ❖ We do not have extra tickets and cannot make exceptions.
- ❖ All guests will need to present their ticket to be admitted into the gymnasium.
- ❖ Please be aware, there are no reserved seats for parents at the graduation ceremony. Parents are encouraged to arrive early and select seats. We will give each family SIX tickets for seating in the gymnasium. Other guests may watch on the screens in the commons and auditorium.
- ❖ 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 with hundreds of seats. 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. 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. Please note that all guests wishing to sit in the gymnasium must have a ticket, this includes wheelchair/handicap seating. We will reserve one ticketed seat alongside the accommodated seat for a ticketed family member.

### **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 documents or click on [VIDEO ORDERING LINK](#) for ordering information.
- ❖ Dwyer Photography will be out to take pictures of graduation practice (Class Picture) and during the ceremony. Please see the enclosed documents or click on [PHOTO ORDERING LINK](#) for ordering information.

### **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 2019 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.
  - In order for student Scholarship information to be placed in the Graduation Program, we must have official verification. It is also very important that you submit ALL scholarships students have received, not just the ones students are going to accept. Copies of scholarship letters need to be submitted in the ESHS counseling center by Friday, April 12th. No individual monetary values are published. Contact Mr. Gosnell ([jgosnell@epsne.org](mailto:jgosnell@epsne.org)) 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:

- ❖ Seniors will be issued a check-out slip on Monday, May 13<sup>th</sup>. The check-out slip must be signed by each student’s classroom teachers and returned when they pick up their cap/gown and graduation tickets on Wednesday, May 15<sup>th</sup>. All fines paid in full, dues, books, and equipment must be turned in before students will receive their cap/gown and tickets.

## Last Day of Classes:

- ❖ The last official day of classes for seniors is Wednesday, May 15<sup>th</sup>. 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 14<sup>th</sup> and in periods 1,2,3,4 on Wednesday, May 15<sup>th</sup>. At the conclusion of 4<sup>th</sup> period on Wednesday, seniors will participate in graduation rehearsal. At the successful conclusion of rehearsal, approximately 2pm, caps/gowns and tickets 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. Kristi Gross ([kbackoragross@epsne.org](mailto:kbackoragross@epsne.org)), ESHS Assistant Principal.

## Honors Night:

- ❖ Honors Night will be held in the auditorium on Wednesday, May 15<sup>th</sup> 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:

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

Visit [apscore.org](http://apscore.org) for AP test scores after all tests scores are received in July.

### Transcripts, Grades and Immunizations:

- ❖ Immunization Records are included with this letter.
- ❖ 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 6<sup>th</sup> and May 17<sup>th</sup>:

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|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| ➤ Monday, May 6 8:00am     | AP Government/Politics                  |
| ➤ Tuesday, May 7 8:00am    | AP Spanish Language/Culture             |
| ➤ Tuesday, May 7 12:00 pm  | AP Japanese Language/Culture            |
| ➤ Wednesday, May 8 8:00am  | AP English Literature/Comp (12th grade) |
| ➤ Thursday, May 9 8:00am   | AP Chemistry                            |
| ➤ Thursday, May 9 12:00pm  | AP Psychology                           |
| ➤ Friday, May 10 8:00am    | AP US History                           |
| ➤ Monday, May 13 8:00am    | AP Biology                              |
| ➤ Tuesday, May 14 8:00am   | AP Calculus AB/BC                       |
| ➤ Wednesday, May 15 8:00am | AP English Language/Comp (11th grade)   |
| ➤ Thursday, May 16 8:00am  | AP World History                        |
| ➤ Thursday, May 16 12:00pm | AP Statistics                           |
| ➤ Friday, May 17 12:00pm   | AP Computer Science A                   |

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