

CONGRATULATIONS GULF HIGH SCHOOL

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY GUIDLELINES

**JULY 25, 2020 AT 9:00AM
JAMES W. MITCHELL HIGH SCHOOL STADIUM**

Pre-Ceremony Preparation, Parking & Arrival Expectations

- ◆ Please take care of hair, make up, and all restroom needs prior to arriving
- ◆ Please bring and silence cell phones and cameras to take pictures
- ◆ You may bring your own pen/pencil to fill out name cards
- ◆ You may bring plastic bottled water, juice, Gatorade, etc. that can be closed with a cap (Bottles must be unopened to be brought into the event)
- ◆ Please leave all bags in cars and lock all doors
- ◆ Please arrive at James W. Mitchell High School by 9:00am, stadium check in starts at 8:30am
- ◆ Parking will be in both bus loops and Purple and Orange parking lots
- ◆ Upon arrival, you will enter through the “Emergency Gate,” near the fieldhouse or the back gate next to the stadium stands where the Marching Mustangs sits
- ◆ Wear masks upon entering the stadium
- ◆ Please sit at the closest triad of chairs, not marked reserved
- ◆ Commencement will begin shortly after 9:00am and last approximately 2 hours consisting of speeches, awards reading of names, and turning of tassels
- ◆ Please remain in your seat until you are directed to get up, and then return promptly to your seat, remaining socially distanced
- ◆ Graduates/guests will exit the same way they entered, and maintain social distancing
- ◆ Ceremony will be live streamed through the GHS Facebook page

Actions and Items that ARE ALLOWED

- ◆ Family appropriate congratulatory signs/banners
- ◆ Vehicle decorations, including window paint
- ◆ Cheering
- ◆ Waving
- ◆ Practicing social distancing
- ◆ Appropriately decorated caps

Actions and Items that are NOT ALLOWED

- ◆ No alcohol, tobacco, vaping, drugs, pets, fireworks, or weapons
- ◆ No streamers, silly string, smoke, inflatable objects, water toys, air horn, or other items
- ◆ No approaching other graduates and families during the ceremony
- ◆ No group gatherings before, during, or after the ceremony

Dress Code for the Ceremony

- ◆ Caps and Gowns can be carried into the ceremony and put on once seated
- ◆ We encourage comfortable shoes for walking on the football field
- ◆ Young men can wear pants, jeans, shorts, but we encourage pants as it looks better for graduation
- ◆ Young men can wear a shirt and tie, but due to the heat, a collared shirt or t-shirt can be worn (No tank tops)
- ◆ Young women can wear a dress, skirt, pants, or shorts/shirt that are length appropriate
- ◆ Appropriately decorated caps (If a student shows up with one that is derogatory or inappropriate, it will be held to the end of graduation and we can't guarantee a blank one)

Walking Across Stage

- ◆ Graduates wear masks as they approach the stage
- ◆ Walk card, which will include email and name spelled phonetically, will be handed to the staff near/on the stage
- ◆ You may also say your name to the reader, if necessary
- ◆ Masks may be removed after handing card to reader and crossing the stage
- ◆ Maintain social distancing from staff, and stand behind displayed diploma cover on stage
- ◆ Individual Diploma covers will be picked up upon exiting the stage
- ◆ Rejoin your guests off stage for an additional photo
- ◆ Return to your seats for the remainder of the ceremony