

# CLASS OF 2023 YEAR-END SENIOR EVENTS & GRADUATION GUIDELINES

Congratulations on your upcoming graduation! We are giving you the following guidelines so that graduation will be a proud memory for all graduates. While we hope it does not become necessary, diplomas may be pulled for any student not following the guidelines set forth at any point through the graduation ceremony.

## SENIOR NIGHT OF EXCELLENCE

**THIS EVENT IS BY INVITE ONLY.** Senior Night of Excellence will be held on May 17, 2023, starting at 6 pm. Those seniors who are receiving scholarships, and some additional special recognitions will be invited.

## SENIOR CHECKOUT

Senior Checkout will be held on **Monday, May 22, 2023 from 8:10AM – 10:35AM in the Gulf High School Gym.** Attendance is **MANDATORY** for participation in graduation. Only students who properly checkout will be able to participate in the Graduation Ceremony or receive diplomas. The administrator in charge of graduation (Mrs. Leeper) MUST review and approve any extenuating circumstances. This is a school day, therefore; *students must be dressed according to the Pasco County School District Dress Code. Students will be sent home to change if they are out of dress code and this may jeopardize their participation in graduation.* At Checkout, students must be cleared at all stations before receiving your Cap & Gown. Stations include: Items owed, transcripts, and Media.

To help Senior Checkout run smoothly we have assigned arrival time to the gym based on student last name.

**8:10-8:55AM – A-G**

**9:00-9:45AM – H-M**

**9:50- 10:35AM -AM – N-Z**

## SENIOR VIDEO

Mr. Rutherford is making a slideshow to show at senior breakfast. Please email your baby picture with your name to Rutherford at [wrutherford@pasco.k12.fl.us](mailto:wrutherford@pasco.k12.fl.us) by May 17.

## SENIOR BREAKFAST

All senior students are invited to attend the annual Senior Breakfast that will be held on **Tuesday, May 23, 2023 at Gulf High at 9AM.** Students are encouraged to dress in school spirit or senior spirit attire. This event is for students only and will take place in the cafeteria.

## GRADUATION PRACTICE

Graduation Practices will be held on **Tuesday, May 23, 2023 immediately following the Senior Breakfast, Wednesday, May 24, and Thursday, May 25 from 9:00AM – 11:00AM** at Gulf High School Gym. Attendance on both days is **MANDATORY** for participation in graduation. Only students who properly checkout and attend graduation practice will be able to participate in the Graduation Ceremony or receive diplomas. The administrator in charge of graduation (Mrs. Leeper) MUST review and approve any extenuating circumstances. *Students must be dressed according to the Pasco County School District Dress Code. Students will be sent home to change if they are out of dress code and this may jeopardize their participation in graduation.* There is no exception to this policy.

## SENIOR FIELD DAY

Senior Field Day will be held on **Wednesday, May 24, 2023 immediately following Graduation Practice at the Gulf High Football Field.** Dress Code for Field Day: Students must wear shorts and a t-shirt with appropriate undergarments. Regular shorts and swim shorts are approved and must meet proper length to cover undergarments or swimsuit being worn underneath. Please note, t-shirts and shorts must remain on for the entire duration of the event. There is no exception to this policy.

## CEREMONY (LIVE AND ONLINE VIA STREAMING)

The graduation ceremony will be held on **Friday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9:00AM.** Ceremony will begin promptly at 9:00AM. Seniors are to report at **8:00AM** to the University of South Florida Sun Dome in Tampa in order to line up for the ceremony. Please follow the signs upon entering the University of South Florida Sun Dome, as they will direct students and guests to the areas in which they should go. Students should enter at the Corral, which is to the left of Gate A.

## DRESS EXPECTATIONS

**Dress Code for Graduates:** Dress pants and dress shirt with tie, a dress or skirt and blouse or pantsuit are recommended outfits. If wearing pants, wear matching/dark socks with dress shoes. No sneakers, flip flops, etc. are allowed. We recommend that students not wear high heels, as there will be a lot of walking and stair climbing. No visible “bulky” jewelry, scarves, ribbons, etc. are permitted.

**Personal Items:** Leave purses, cameras, and personal items with a parent or friend in the audience; they may not be taken in during the processional. Flowers or corsages are NOT permitted.

**Graduation Gowns:** Cap and gowns were ordered through Herff Jones and were included in the senior fees. Please carry your cap and gown into the University of South Florida Sun Dome. We will not have extra gowns on hand. Make sure that you bring yours to the ceremony. Gowns are to look like they did when received from the company. **Nothing extra may be added to them.**

**Graduation Cap:** The mortarboard (graduation cap) is to be worn flat with the tassel over the right ear. Once the seniors are declared graduates, the tassel is moved to the left side in unison with the class. Mortarboards may be decorated following the guidelines attached. We will not have extra caps or tassels on hand. Make sure that you bring yours to the ceremony. No exceptions.

*Failure to comply with the dress policy may result in the student not being permitted to participate in the ceremony. Security will do a visual search and wand of all of the graduates and any guests to the University of South Florida Sun Dome.*

### **BEHAVIOR**

Graduation is a momentous occasion not only for the seniors, but also for their parents, families, and friends. For that reason, the ceremony is to be held with dignity and courtesy to others. ***All participants are expected to conduct themselves in a manner appropriate for the occasion, which includes walking across the stage. All participants must comply with the Pasco County Student Code of Conduct. Inappropriate behavior will result in both students and parents/guardians having to meet with the school administration prior to receiving a diploma.***

Improper noises and distractions will not be permitted. This includes, but is not limited to, noisemakers such as bullhorns, air horns, whistles, cowbells, and firecrackers, etc. Do NOT bring in beach balls, silly string, or any item that would be deemed inappropriate. We ask that you request family and friends to remain seated throughout the ceremony, except when it is appropriate to stand (during the Pledge of Allegiance, for example), as a courtesy to other graduates and their families and friends. No one, other than graduates and designated guests, is permitted in the seating area for graduates.

Anyone under the influence of alcohol or drugs will not receive his/her diploma and/or will be turned over to appropriate law enforcement officials. As this is a School District of Pasco County event, alcohol will not be permitted inside of any of the areas in the University of South Florida Sun Dome dedicated to the graduation ceremony.

### **TRAFFIC TO AND PARKING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA SUN DOME**

Please be advised that the time of arrival for the graduation ceremony for students (8:00AM) will coincide with early morning traffic that is very heavy based on the location of the University of South Florida Sun Dome. Please plan appropriately when leaving your homes and give yourself more than enough time to arrive without incident. Once students and staff have left for the beginning of the ceremony, the students will not be permitted to enter into the seating area for graduates. This is University of South Florida Sun Dome's security policy and will be strictly enforced. *There is a \$8.00 charge for parking and will be done by credit card only. There are parking areas throughout the areas around the University of South Florida Sun Dome.* Disabled parking is located at Gate A and Gate D, Parking Lot Area 22F.

### **SECURITY**

University of South Florida security personnel will do a **search and wand** of ALL of the graduates and ALL guests of the graduation.

### **SEATING & TICKETS**

Seating is unlimited in the University of South Florida Sun Dome. Tickets will not be necessary as a result. **No one, other than graduates and designated guests, is permitted on the floor partitioned off on the University of South Florida Sun Dome.** Floor seating is only permitted for invited dignitaries, graduating seniors, band members, faculty and staff, and other invited guests. All of these people will have tickets in order to go to the floor and will be listed on pre-approved lists provided to the University of South Florida Sun Dome. No one else is permitted on the floor of the University of South Florida Sun Dome. Those who need handicapped seating would be advised to enter in at Gate A, where there are elevators available. There is handicapped seating available throughout the Sun Dome. There is also reserved seating for the hearing impaired. Upon entering the Sun Dome, all people in attendance will be searched by security per Sun Dome policy.

### **PHOTOGRAPHY**

Gigante Productions (813-907-1078) will photograph each senior individually upon receiving his/her diploma and congratulations from the principal, as well as with their diplomas. Purchase of these photographs is optional. Gigante Productions has provided a QR Code located on our program for viewing and purchasing of photos after the ceremony. All questions regarding these pictures should go to Gigante Productions. **School does not receive any of these pictures or information following graduation.**

### **Diploma Distribution**

Graduates receive an empty diploma cover when crossing the stage. Graduates will exit the ceremony and return to the Corral where seniors will pick up the official Gulf High Diploma. We recommend having a pre-arranged meeting place set with your graduate and family following the ceremony and diploma pick up. Students who do not follow graduation conduct guidelines will not receive their diploma on June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Upon completion of the Graduation Ceremony, please exit the University of South Florida Sun Dome.**

**We recommend having a pre-arranged meeting place set with your family.**