



Gulf High School



New Chapter: Honoring Yesterday, Redefining Tomorrow.

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Principal: Travis DeWalt

Assistant Principals: Shauna Lewis, Thurston King, Karen Kledzik, Hilda Martin, Amy Mazurowski

March 17, 2026

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The Class of 2026 proudly announces its graduation. The graduation ceremony will be held on **Monday, June 8, 2026 at 8:00AM at the University of South Florida**. Though the ceremony begins at 8:00AM, students will report to the Yuengling Center by 7:00AM. In order to uphold the dignity of our graduation ceremony and to meet increased security requirements, the following procedures will be followed by the University of South Florida Yuengling Center and the Pasco County School District for all Senior and Graduation Activities:

1. Please mark your calendars now for an important event. The Senior Night of Excellence for invited members of the Class of 2026 will be held on **Thursday, May 21, 2026** at the Wendell Krinn Technical High School Gymnasium.
2. Senior Breakfast, a breakfast held for the senior students only, will be held on **Wednesday, May 27th at the Gulf High School Cafeteria**. There is not a fee for this event, nor is there a ticket. This event will begin at 8AM. Dress should adhere to Pasco County School District expectations. Seniors that wish to participate may submit a "baby picture" and a current photo to be included in a slideshow to be shown during the breakfast. (See website information)
3. Graduation Practice and Senior Check-out are mandatory. They will be held at Gulf High School in the gymnasium **Tuesday, May 26, 2026 through Friday, May 28, 2026**. **Any student who does not attend rehearsal may not be allowed** to participate in the ceremony. Students should arrive at the school and be ready to practice on time. **May 26- Senior Checkout, 8:00AM- 11:00AM**, see designated participation times based on Last Name. **May 27, 8:00AM - Senior Breakfast followed by Graduation Practice, May 28, 9:00AM - Graduation Practice followed by Field Day**.
4. During Graduation Checkout, students will receive a final notice of debts/items owed. These debts or items owed must be resolved PRIOR to being "signed off" or receiving the cap and gown.
5. Tickets are **NOT** required for entry into the commencement exercises. For seating, your party should arrive at the same time if you want to sit together.
6. Parking lots around the University of South Florida charge \$13.00 for parking per vehicle. All of this will be done electronically via credit card. Cash will not be accepted.
7. When you arrive at the University of South Florida, please make sure that you enter at the Fowler Avenue and Bull Run entrance. There will be signs throughout the area that will direct you.
8. The graduates must carry their caps and gowns into the University of South Florida Yuengling Center as students will go through a metal detector and/or be wanded by security personnel. Graduates may put their gowns on after they have entered the building. Graduates should enter and go immediately to the entry that is marked for graduates (the Gate A Annex near the USF Store).
Reminders: Graduates should not bring anything else with them except their caps and gowns. This includes purses and bags. Only school or military issued cords, stoles or regalia are permitted to be worn during the ceremony. Personal items of decoration or recognition need to remain with guests for use after the ceremony. Of note, mortar caps that are decorated must adhere to our "Mortar board" expectations. (see flyer)
9. All bags brought in by guests will be searched. All guests will walk through metal detectors and will be wanded by security staff. No backpacks will be permitted in the University of South Florida. Cameras and binoculars will only be permitted if they are out of their cases (the cases should be left in the car). No professional camera equipment will be allowed in the arena.
10. Balloons, flowers, signs, noisemakers of any kind (including, but not limited to, bull horns, cowbells, whistles and air horns), or laser pointers will NOT be allowed in the University of South Florida.
11. Concessions at the University of South Florida may be open before the ceremony begins. Food and drink can be purchased for guests only.
12. Hearing-impaired services are available. Please contact Ms. Liz Diaz if you need this service.
13. We recommend having a pre-arranged meeting place set with your graduate and family following the ceremony. Graduates will first have to pick up their diplomas following the ceremony in the area reserved for graduates, then will be able to meet at a spot immediately following this process.
14. Please do not hire or engage any outside organizations to film or photograph your graduate. Photographs and video of the graduates and ceremony are done by Gigante Productions and a copy of the video of the ceremony can be purchased. More information regarding will be forthcoming.
15. The graduation ceremony will be live streamed for those who are not able to attend. More information regarding this will be forthcoming.

Students will be informed by their school counselor if their graduation status changes. If a student is no longer eligible to graduate per the standards set by the State of Florida and the School District of Pasco County, then he/she will not be able to participate in the graduation ceremony. We thank you in advance for your cooperation in making our graduation ceremony a memorable event for our graduates and their guests. If you have any questions or concerns regarding graduation, please contact Ms. Diaz at e-mail ediaz@pasco.k12.fl.us or (727) 774-3300.

With best wishes,

Hilda Martin- Assistant Principal – Class of 2026