



PALMYRA HIGH SCHOOL

311 West Fifth Street
Palmyra, New Jersey 08065
(856) 786-9400 Fax (856) 786-3014
"Excellence in Education"

LISA E. SABO
Principal
lsabo@palmyra.k12.nj.us

JARED M. TOSCANO
Assistant Principal
jtoscano@palmyra.k12.nj.us

MICHAEL PAPENBERG
Athletic Director
mpapenberg@palmyra.k12.nj.us

May 21, 2019

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Members of the Senior Class:

Congratulations on the graduation of your son or daughter! Graduation exercises for the Class of 2019 are scheduled for Monday, June 17th, at 6:30 PM. Commencement will take place on the football field, weather permitting. In the event of rain, ceremonies will be moved into the gymnasium. Exercises will last approximately one and a half hours. Please note the following:

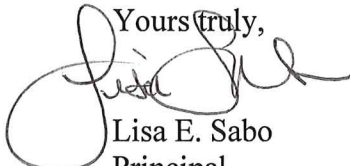
1. Final examinations will take place on June 10-14, 2019.
2. **Attendance at all graduation rehearsals is mandatory.** Any student who expects to walk at commencement exercises on the night of June 17th must attend all three rehearsals.
3. When all obligations have been satisfied, students will receive five (5) red graduation tickets and ten (10) white graduation tickets.

Please note—

- White and red tickets can both be used if ceremonies are held outside.
 - In the event of inclement weather, exercises will be moved inside to the gymnasium. **Only** red tickets will be accepted for the inside ceremony. White tickets will not be accepted for the inside ceremony.
 - No one will be admitted to graduation exercises, inside or outside, without the appropriate ticket.
4. **Graduates will receive their diplomas in the high school immediately following graduation (students should refer to room assignments).**

Graduation is the highlight of a student's educational career. It is our goal to make the event as enjoyable as possible for our graduates and their families. Please see the attached rules and expectations. Again, congratulations and we look forward to seeing you on June 17th.

Yours truly,



Lisa E. Sabo
Principal



Jared M. Toscano
Assistant Principal

*Receipt of this letter does not guarantee that any given student graduates. Only students meeting state and district requirements may participate in the ceremony. Students may be removed from graduation due to behavior and/or clothing. Violations of the discipline code during the final three weeks of school will result in a meeting with the principal to determine whether the involved student may participate in graduation exercises.

GRADUATION RULES AND EXPECTATIONS

Participation in graduation exercises is not a right. It is a privilege granted by the Palmyra Board of Education. Any student who does not wish to conform to school rules, receives three or more suspensions during the school year, or has any outstanding obligations, will be excluded from graduation ceremonies. Any graduate who is not participating in the ceremony may not attend Palmyra High School's graduation on the night of June 17th as a spectator.

The following rules will be in effect:

1. **Dress—**
 - a. General
 - (1) All participants must wear gowns and caps.
 - (2) No headbands, scarves, or other outerwear will be acceptable.
 - (3) No insignia of any nature may be displayed on the gowns, *tops of caps*, or any other place.
 - (4) Sunglasses may not be worn during ceremonies.
 - (5) PHS administration will make final determinations on any dress code concerns.
 - b. Boys
 - (1) Shirt with collar, tie, and slacks, no shorts. NO JEANS
 - (2) Conventional shoes. NO SNEAKERS
 - c. Girls
 - (1) Conventional dress, no shorts. NO JEANS
 - (2) Dress shoe or dress sandal. Please do not wear a shoe with heels that will sink into the grass or mud of the athletic field. NO SNEAKERS
 - (3) Ladies will be wearing white gowns. These gowns are semi-transparent. Be very conscious of the clothing worn beneath these gowns.
2. **Behavior—**
 - a. Fireworks/firecrackers are not permitted. Violators will be removed from ceremonies and prosecuted.
 - b. Any student under the influence of drugs, alcohol, or other substances will be removed from ceremonies and prosecuted. Please be advised that we may utilize the Passive Alcohol Sensor devices throughout the evening as per school Board of Education Policy # 5535.
 - c. Students may not carry anything with them to the graduation ceremonies, with the exception of a program. No flowers, purses, pocketbooks, jars of bubbles, balloons, beach balls, iPods, laser pointers, noisemakers, bottled water, food, etc. will be accepted. Any student found with any such paraphernalia may be removed from exercises.
 - d. Students may not carry cellular phones during ceremonies. Any student found with a cell phone will be removed from the ceremony.
 - e. Any student who shows any signs of questionable behavior during practice or in the line-up before commencement will be told to leave.
 - f. In the event of misbehavior during the ceremony, students will be dismissed.
3. **Spectators---**
 - a. All spectators are expected to conform to standards of dignity and formality during the ceremony. Questionable or objectionable behavior may result in removal from the exercises.

- c. Any student who has been expelled from school may not attend as a spectator.
- d. Any student legally restrained from attending PHS may not attend as a spectator.
- e. **ALL SPECTATORS MUST BE SEATED IN THE STANDS DURING THE CEREMONY.**
- f. **No balloons or noise makers of any kind are permitted.**
- g. If handicapped seating is required for a family member who has a ticket, please contact Mrs. Cecchini at ext. 3157 to reserve their seat. One additional family member, with a ticket, may accompany them.

****Please be aware that caps and gowns, graduation tickets, and diplomas will not be distributed if a senior has any outstanding obligation. Mandatory practices are listed below. ****

All seniors will be dismissed from school at the conclusion of the following school activities:

- Thursday, June 13th -Mandatory graduation practice – Please report to the cafeteria at 12:30 p.m.
Lunch will be provided.
- Friday, June 14th -Mandatory graduation practice – Please report to the cafeteria at 1 p.m.
Outstanding obligations will be collected. Caps & gowns and graduation tickets will be distributed.
- Monday, June 17th -Mandatory graduation practice – Please report to cafeteria at 8:00 a.m.
- Tuesday, June 18th -Awards given out after thank you cards are received (9-10:30 a.m. in room #118)

If your child receives any awards at graduation, they will need to report to room #118 on Tuesday, June 18th, from 9-10:30 a.m. Students should have with them a completed and stamped thank you card for each award received. Included in all thank you cards should be the graduate's name, any future plans and the college he/she will be attending. (A sample thank-you letter has been provided in their graduation envelope. Please ensure that the cards are not copied verbatim!) The name and address of the sponsor of the award(s) are listed on their graduation envelope that they will receive the night of June 17th. Thank you cards should be addressed to the sponsor of their award(s). Please be aware that awards will be distributed only when the thank you card has been received.

Please be aware of your child's activities during the graduation season and advise them accordingly. Due to alcohol/drug abuse and other societal issues that in different ways may affect our youth and sometimes lead to automobile accidents, fights, and assaults, this is often the most dangerous time of the year. Please also note that any adult who serves alcohol to minors or permits minors to drink alcohol in/on their home/property may be prosecuted. In recent years, adults have been found liable for injuries and deaths related to alcohol consumption at their homes. Pre-graduation, post-graduation, and any other type of party involving illegal substances, including alcohol being provided to minors, are illegal gatherings whereby both students and parents may be prosecuted. Please inform your child to use good judgment during this time of the school year.