



STUDENTS FIRST!

**HABERSHAM CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL
CLASS OF 2020
GRADUATION PLAN**

Principal: Jonathan H. Stribling

Dear Senior and Senior Parents/Guardians,

Congratulations on your student reaching this point in his or her high school career. At the forefront of our thoughts is graduation. We are working diligently to ensure that your student's graduation is memorable.

Habersham Central High School's Commencement will take place on **Friday, July 31st, at 8:00 P.M.** in Raider stadium. Enclosed with this letter, you will find the following important information about the commencement ceremony:

- 2020 Commencement Procedures
- General Information
- Behavior Expectations
- Dress Code
- Commencement Practice
- Commencement Photos and DVD Information
- Ticket and Parking Information

Sincerely,

Jonathan H. Stribling
Principal

HABERSHAM CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 2020

Commencement Information

Seniors and their parents/guardians should read all information in this packet carefully. Seniors are responsible for knowing and following all directions and schedules in this packet.

Commencement is an optional, dignified, formal ceremony for graduating seniors and their families and guests. Possession of any disruptive objects or disruptive behavior may lead to immediate removal from the ceremony.

We ask that everyone in attendance please cooperate to make sure the commencement ceremony remains the dignified event our graduates deserve. Please avoid making any distracting noises that would detract from the decorum of the ceremony. The ceremony is an official function of Habersham Central High School; therefore, all Habersham County School District and Habersham Central High School policies and rules must be followed.

Commencement

Friday, July 31st, 8pm

Habersham Central High School, Raider Stadium

2020 Commencement Procedures

We want all students, families, staff, and guests to be safe during the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, we will be following the below guidelines:

- Graduates will be staggered/checkerboard by 6-feet on all sides while on the field. Graduates will process in and out of the stadium 6-feet apart.
- **Each student will receive 4 tickets for family/guests.**
- **Seating will be in groups of 4. There will be social distancing between each seating group. Non-seating areas will be marked with red tape.**
- The stadium field is closed prior to and after graduation. Parents/guardians and guests must remain in the stands before and after the ceremony.
- No handshaking will occur during the ceremony or presentation of diplomas. Diploma covers will be hand-delivered, while the principal is wearing gloves.
- It is recommended that all spectators wear a face covering that covers their mouth and nose.

Senior Arrival

Graduates will need to report to the gym no later than **6:30 pm for the ceremony**. We are working diligently with the Habersham County Sheriff's Office to alleviate traffic issues. Graduates will park in the back of Habersham Central High School at the front entrance of the Performing Arts Center. Please be dressed and have your cap/gown with you. Report directly to the gym for check-in. **Only graduates will be allowed to enter the building.** Please tell your family and guests to expect traffic congestion in and out of HCHS.

Commencement Parking

Graduation guests will have the use of multiple lots for parking. All parking areas will be open at **6p.m. for the ceremony**; **PLEASE DO NOT ARRIVE BEFORE THIS TIME**. We will have parking at Habersham Central High School and Habersham Ninth Grade Academy. Carpooling is encouraged. Once a lot is full, the Habersham County Sheriff's Department will restrict access to those lots.

Handicap Parking

For guests with a mobility issue or requiring assistance: Please report to the Ninth Grade Academy campus (please display a handicap tag if you have one), and you will be directed to a drop-off area. Guests with mobility issues may be dropped off close to the entrance and then the car may be parked. Handicap parking will be available. We will try our best to accommodate the needs of our visitors.

Tickets

Each senior will be given 4 tickets. These tickets will allow four ticket holders to enter either side of the stadium. Only ticket holders can attend the graduation ceremony. Ticket holders may begin entering the stadium at **6:30 p.m.** There are NO reserved seats or areas in the stands. Seniors will receive their four tickets on Thursday, July 30th, during graduation practice.

Inclement Weather Plan

If inclement weather occurs the day of commencement, the ceremony may be delayed for up to two hours. If inclement weather persists, the ceremony will be held in Raider Stadium Saturday, August 1st, at 9am and may be delayed for up to 2 hours if necessary. If graduation is not possible Saturday morning, Commencement will be held Saturday evening, August 1st at 8pm.

General Graduation Information

Graduates must meet all financial obligations, including payment for lost textbooks, library fines, etc., and be "cleared" before participating in commencement practice and/or receive their diploma. Students will have until Thursday, July 30th, during graduation practice to take care of any debt; however, senior holds should be paid ***as soon as possible*** to avoid interruptions in graduation practice.

Commencement Practice

ATTENDANCE AT THE COMMENCEMENT PRACTICE IS A **MANDATORY** REQUIREMENT FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY. **Commencement Practice will be July 30th and July 31st at 8am. Graduates will report to the main gym at HCHS.** It is imperative that graduates be on time for graduation practice. Face coverings are welcome at graduation practice.

Practice Guidelines:

- Graduates are expected to follow directions explained during practice.
- Habersham County School District policies and Habersham Central High School policies, rules, and expectations are in effect at all Commencement practices.
- Dress code is in effect for practice; however, gym shorts are allowed.
- Graduates must have met all financial obligations.
- Practice will end when Mrs. Byers has completed everything. The more you listen and do what is necessary, the quicker we can finish.

Ceremony Behavior

- All policies, rules, and expectations of the school and the Habersham County School District will be enforced. Graduates must remain in academic regalia throughout the ceremony.
- Possession of any disruptive objects may lead to immediate removal from the ceremony.
- Graduates should not bring valuables (cameras, phones, purses, etc.) to the ceremony. No one is available to monitor student valuables.
- Graduates must arrive on time, follow directions, and cooperate fully during the ceremony.

Each graduate at HCHS deserves to hear his or her name during the graduation ceremony. The announcer cannot stop and pause for excessive noise following one graduate's name, or we would have to delay the ceremony. Please be respectful of the formal nature of the ceremony, but more importantly be respectful of your fellow graduates. No noise makers, beach balls, horns, or bells of any kind should be used on the field or by the audience. Umbrellas and balloons are also prohibited on the field and in the stands. Please remind your parents and others planning to attend that we truly want to honor every graduate.

Graduate Attire

Caps and gowns must be worn by graduating seniors. Please steam or hang the gown before commencement; do NOT hem or iron commencement gowns. Only those in proper attire will be allowed in the processional.

Ladies: Please wear a dress/skirt or nice capris underneath the gown. Clothing should not show below the graduation gown. Dress shoes or sandals should be worn (no tennis shoes or flip flops). Shoes must be safe and comfortable enough to walk from the high school to the football field and across the field. Shoes must be worn throughout the ceremony. No sunglasses will be permitted.

Men: Navy, black or Khaki dress pants, a collared shirt (preferably with a tie), and dress shoes should be worn. No flip flops or tennis shoes should be worn and shoes must be worn throughout the ceremony. No sunglasses will be permitted.

You will also wear the cap and gown chosen by the school and ordered from Balfour.

The only addition to any cap and gown outfit will be honor recognitions. Students who have received cords, sashes, or stoles as an honor recognition from a recognized school organization can be worn during graduation.

Commencement Photos and DVDs

To maintain the dignity of the ceremony, guests must remain in their seats throughout the commencement ceremony. Family and guests will NOT be permitted in the stage area to take videos or photos. Only hand-held cameras that do not block the view of other guests may be used.

We have arranged for a photographer to take commencement photos (taken as students leave the stage with the diploma cover in hand). Photos may be purchased at www.crumphoto.com

DVDs of the entire graduation ceremony will be available to purchase for \$25. Email Coach Ric Wallace at rwallace@habershamschools.com for more information.

Diplomas

During the ceremony, students will be handed the diploma cover, but not the actual diploma to prevent any mix ups. Immediately following the graduation ceremony, seniors will report back to the HCHS main gym to pick up their diplomas. **ONLY seniors** will be allowed to go back in the building.

Emergency Assistance

If anyone needs assistance, school administrators will be present through the stadium. We will also have Habersham County Deputies on site, along with medical professionals should an incident arise. In addition, Habersham County Deputies will be assisting with parking, gate control, and crowd safety.