

BETHLEHEM AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
FREEDOM HIGH SCHOOL
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania
MEMORANDUM

TO: All Graduating Seniors, Parents and Guests

FROM: Michael W. LaPorta Jr., Principal

SUBJECT: Commencement Protocol _____

The Freedom High School Graduation Ceremony will be held on Friday, June 11 at 6:00 P.M. in the Bethlehem Area School District Stadium on the Liberty High School campus. The rain date and time will be Saturday, June 12 at a time to be announced.

Graduation from high school is one of the most important events, which takes place in a student and his/her parent's lives. It is a time to celebrate the entrance of a young man or woman into the so-called larger society. In our culture, it is a rite of passage, which signifies that an individual is now prepared educationally to meet the challenge of adulthood. Thus, graduation is both a happy and serious occasion.

In order to provide a dignified, inspiring, memorable and pleasurable ceremony, students, parents and guests are asked to adhere to the following procedures:

1. **UPON ENTERING BASD STADIUM, PLEASE PRESENT YOUR OFFICIAL FREEDOM HIGH SCHOOL COMMENCEMENT TICKET. THIS TICKET WILL BE COLLECTED BY BASD PERSONNEL. ALL GUESTS MUST BE WEARING A MASK IN ORDER TO BE ADMITTED. NO ONE WILL BE ADMITTED WITHOUT AN OFFICIAL TICKET AND MASK. GRADUATION ANNOUNCEMENTS ARE NOT TICKETS.** Each student will receive six (6) tickets, and parents can request additional tickets by contacting SSC 207 at 610-867-5843 ext. 53904/53907 by **Monday, June 7th**. All commencement tickets will be included in the cap and gown packets that seniors will receive on **Thursday, June 10th**.

Parents or guests who are handicapped should submit their names to SSC 207 (ext. 53904/53907) for special parking and seating at the ceremony.

2. **THERE SHOULD BE NO TALKING DURING THE SPEECHES OR PRESENTATION OF THE CLASS BY ANYONE IN THE AUDIENCE.** Students will be specifically instructed about expected behavior during the ceremony. In a large and open facility such as BASD Stadium, it is difficult to hear the speakers unless everyone extends the utmost courtesy to the individual presenters.

TO ENSURE THAT AUDIENCE DISTURBANCE IS KEPT AT A MINIMUM, THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM POLICE HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO REMOVE INDIVIDUALS WHO CANNOT CONTAIN THEIR ENTHUSIASM WITHIN ACCEPTABLE LIMITS.

3. We have employed ushers to keep the aisles clear and guests socially distant. Individuals in the audience will not be permitted to go up to the first aisle and impede the view and enjoyment of others seated in this area. An opportunity to take pictures will be afforded at the conclusion of the ceremony. In addition, a professional photographer, Christmas City Studios, has been

engaged to take pictures of all graduates as they walk across the stage, as well as, other candid graduation shots. These pictures will be made available to view or purchase images at www.christmascitystudio.com and click “Event Candid’s”.

Christmas City Studio’s direct telephone line is (610) 691-2109.

4. Every care should be taken to keep movement by individuals in the audience during the ceremony at an absolute minimum. Excessive movement is disruptive and tends to take the focus off the graduates and the ceremony.

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5. We will review with our graduating seniors their responsibility in ensuring a dignified and inspiring ceremony. Students who participate in any activity, which disrupts the ceremony in any manner will be escorted from the commencement scene and will not receive their diplomas during the ceremony.
6. Water will be provided for all students and guests at the designated areas located in the stadium.

Graduation Rehearsals:

REMINDER: There will be two (2) rehearsals to prepare the graduates for our graduation ceremony. We expect all students to attend all rehearsals so that they may be properly prepared for the ceremony.

The rehearsals will take place as follows:

Thursday, June 10	8:30 A.M.	Freedom Gym
Friday, June 11	8:30 A.M.	BASD Stadium

Correct Usage of Academic Robes:

1. Commencement is a special event that requires a semi-formal attire.
2. Young ladies are encouraged to dress professionally, i.e., dresses, skirts/tops, dark pants, etc. Our young ladies need to be aware that you will be walking on a synthetic turf field and the wearing of high heels may be difficult. Young men are encouraged to wear a white or light colored shirt with black pants, dark socks and dark dress shoes.
3. Since nothing may be carried by the graduate during the processional, valuables (purses, cameras, etc.) should be given to parents to hold during the ceremony. A secured area will not be available for personal belongings at BASD Stadium. Graduates may not carry or wear flowers or corsages.
4. Caps should be placed on the head with the deep part to the back. They should first be placed well down over the forehead, then pulled firmly back. Caps should be level on the head, not worn at an angle.

5. The cap should be worn throughout all academic exercises, except during the singing of the National Anthem and the Alma Mater, when they should be removed by the young men.
6. The tassel is always worn draped over the left front quarter of the cap. It is not changed at any time during the exercises, except when the diploma is presented, at which time the tassel is placed over the right front quarter of the cap. Students may keep the cap, gown and tassel as souvenirs.