



Mr. Alan Fields, Principal
Mr. Aaron Dille, Assistant Principal/Athletic Director
Ms. Krista Tate, Assistant Principal/ Curriculum
Ms. Nicole Johnson, Assistant Principal/Activities
Ms. Pamela Simmons, Dean of Students/Security

Re: Class of 2023

Dear Seniors and Parents/Guardians:

This letter has been prepared to help you plan and prepare for graduation. Graduation is rapidly approaching. Therefore, plans and arrangements are being made now to assure a successful commencement. This letter is being provided to inform you of the plans, arrangements, and dates in place at this time.

IMPORTANT DATES

- *Tuesday, April 11, 2023* – Senior meeting in the HCPA 3rd hour. Report to 3rd hour for attendance and then travel to HCPA after attendance.
- *Monday, May 15, 2023*- Seniors may start getting their Senior Checklists signed off. Checklists will be available May 15, 2023. To participate in your commencement ceremony, you must make sure all laptop computers, overdue textbooks and library books are returned and outstanding fees, including \$50.00 graduation fee, are paid.
- *Monday, May 15, 2023* – Senior Honors and Awards Ceremony – 5:30 pm check in at the Higley Center for the Performing Arts. The ceremony starts at 6:00 pm. Must RSVP your participation to Mrs. Novak.
- *Thursday, May 18 and Friday, May 19, 2023* – Final exams for **ALL** seniors - These are full days of school.
- *Tuesday, May 23, 2023* — *Mandatory Graduation Practice will begin promptly at 6:00 am in the aux gym.*
- *Tuesday, May 23, 2023* – Graduation ceremony at ASU's Desert Financial Arena at 2:30 pm. Check-in at 1:00 p.m. do not be late.

GRADUATION PRACTICE – Prior to the graduation ceremony seniors will be involved in practice for commencement activities. On Tuesday, May 23, 2023, at 6:00 am, all Seniors must report for graduation practice located in the aux gym. **Attendance at graduation practice is mandatory!** Seniors who do not attend the graduation practice will not be allowed to participate in the ceremony. Seniors are expected to arrive on time and stay for the duration of the practice. Seniors must dress appropriately in compliance with the district and school dress code.



GRADUATION CEREMONY – Tuesday, May 23, 2023, Desert Financial Arena, 2:30 pm

- The ceremony will begin promptly at 2:30 pm. Graduates need to report at 1:00 pm at the west entrance for check-in.
- There will be no tickets required for graduates or their guests. Any parking available around Desert Financial Arena will be open to you and there will be no reserved Graduation parking sections that evening.
- Seniors who choose to participate in the graduation ceremony are expected to dress appropriately. Appropriate attire for the gentlemen includes dress pants, dress shirt, tie and dress shoes. Appropriate attire for the ladies includes dress slacks with a blouse or a dress with dress shoes. Cut-off shorts, tennis shoes, deck shoes, Crocs, and 'flip-flops' are not considered appropriate attire. Personal items such as corsages, leis or cap and gown decorations may not be worn.
- It is important that each and every graduate name be heard by all in attendance. Please only bring items that would be respectful of other people's ability to hear the proceedings. Do not bring "playthings" or distractions. **Items such as corsages, leis or cap and gown decorations may not be worn and will be collected prior to the procession of the graduates!** Items will be returned after the ceremony. Sealed and opened bottles of water will be allowed entry at the door. Food, drinks, or coolers will not be permitted inside the stadium. Other items such as signs, balloons, or air horns will **not** be permitted.
- **Honors Recognition Cords-**

Top 1%
Top 2%
Top 5%

You will receive the honors cord at graduation May 23, 2023.

CLEARANCE OF DEBTS AND TEXTBOOK RETURN – All HUSD laptops, overdue textbooks, library books, athletic uniforms, other school equipment/items and locks must be returned, and debts paid in order to participate in the graduation practice and ceremony. Your point of contact for outstanding materials and fees will be the Bookstore Manager, Katie Davis. Acacia.Davis@husd.org

GRADUATION PHOTOS – There will be an opportunity for your senior to have professional graduation photos by Lou Coopey. It will be during the commencement ceremony when the Governing Board hands the diploma to your senior. Please visit their website for ordering. Contact information: 480-830-5667 or www.loucoopey.com



PARTICIPATION IN GRADUATION – All seniors are encouraged to participate in the commencement ceremony. If any senior is unable to participate, then he or she may request to be excused by contacting Ms. Novak at Jacqueline.novak@husd.org

Graduation Cap and Gown –Jostens, Please order your graduation cap and gown as soon as possible. Contact information- www.jostens.com or 1.800.567.8367

You may go to the bookstore to purchase one onsite asap if you have not already ordered one. You may NOT decorate your cap and all gowns must be zipped up for our graduation ceremony.

This letter is **NOT** to be considered an indication that your son or daughter will graduate. All seniors must meet the State of Arizona and the Higley Unified District Board of Education requirements to receive a diploma. Students who do not meet these requirements will not be permitted to take part in the graduation ceremony. We look forward to hearing “Pomp and Circumstance” while your student marches in and is rewarded for their hard work by receiving their diploma at graduation.

Sincerely,
HHS Administration

MESSAGES FROM DESERT FINANCIAL ARENA

High School Graduation represents the culmination of a student’s academic achievement. It is a time of celebration and reflection for students, family, friends, faculty and staff. It brings together a diverse community to share the joy of accomplished goals. Graduation is a special event for all involved. Please show respect for everyone who has come to share in the experience. Individuals who engage in inappropriate or disruptive behavior may be removed from the event.

DESERT FINANCIAL SPECIAL SERVICES

- Lost and found is in room 116
- First Aid Station will be in section #15
- Handicapped seating is available in the arena. First come, first served
- ASL interpretation will be provided. The first two rows of section T1 will be reserved for guests requiring ASL interpretation, first come, first served.
- Restrooms and Concessions are available around the concourse

PARENT/GUEST GUIDELINES

- The doors to the Desert Financial Arena open at 1:30 pm, one hour prior to the graduation ceremony.
- The event is open to the public.
- Parents/Guardians, family and friends will not be allowed on the floor at any time before, during or after the ceremony.



- Security at Desert Financial Arena may be conducting “searches” of all students and adults entering the facility as they would for a regular ASU sponsored event.
- All spectators will pass through metal detectors prior to entering the arena.
- See the following lists for items that will and will not be allowed in the arena.

THE FOLLOWING WILL BE ALLOWED IN THE ARENA

- **Bags that are clear plastic, vinyl or PVC and do not exceed 12" x 6" x 12"**
- One-gallon clear plastic freezer bag (Ziploc bag or similar)
- Small clutch bags (no larger than 4.5" x 6.5") with or without a handle or strap can be taken into the venue
- Medically necessary items after proper inspection at gates
- Factory sealed water bottles 51 oz. / 1.5 liters or smaller
- Empty non-disposable plastic water bottles • Small retractable umbrellas
- Umbrella strollers
- Service animals
- Seat cushions and chair backs must be 18" or less in width (No pockets, zippers, compartments, or covers)

THE FOLLOWING WILL NOT BE ALLOWED IN THE ARENA

- Soft or hard sided coolers, ice chests
- Glass or metal containers
- Outside beverages
- Tortillas
- Use of tobacco products, including e-cigarettes and smokeless cigarettes/tobacco
- Cameras with detachable lenses greater than 6" or video cameras
- Tripods, monopods, or selfie sticks for cameras/phones
- Full size strollers
- Backpacks, diaper bags and other similar bags will not be allowed
- Bikes, skateboards, scooters, hover boards, long boards
- Large golf umbrellas
- Pitchforks (wood, metal, plastic)
- Sticks, poles or similar objects that can be used as a weapon
- Weapons of any kind including those carried with permit
- Fireworks, drones or laser pointers
- Artificial noisemakers (Example: air horns, thunderstix, musical instruments, cans filled with contents, whistles, cow bells or any other item used to make artificial noise)
- No pets/animals

To enhance public safety and make stadium access more efficient, Sun Devil Athletics adopted a Clear Bag Policy. Guests may bring in one (1) clear bag no larger than 12" x 6" x 12" or a 1-gallon plastic storage bag. Fans are limited to one clear bag per person, along with a small clutch or purse for privacy. Staff from the ASU Bookstore will be on hand selling bags should you need them.