

April, 2008

Dear Parents,

Graduation day is rapidly approaching for Elk Grove High School's Class of 2008. These are exciting times for seniors, and for their parents, too. It seems that those last events of high school are events that we always remember. I offer this information to help you plan for the events that lead up to your senior's graduation day.

On Thursday, May 8, I will be meeting with the senior class. We will address the contents of this letter and highlight the important events that lie ahead. I will remind them to make good choices as we get closer to graduation. I will encourage them to be responsible so that they will not put participation in events like the prom, senior breakfast, and graduation ceremony in jeopardy.

The prom and post prom cruise will take place on Friday, May 16. The Elk Grove High School staff and the Post Prom Parent Club have made every attempt to ensure that all young people who attend the prom and post prom will enjoy a wonderful and safe evening, without drugs and alcohol. Please do all you can to support our efforts and keep these dangers away from our kids.

Final exams for seniors will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, May 27 and 28. Seniors who have not met all graduation requirements of High School District 214 are not permitted to participate in the graduation ceremony and are not given diplomas. Graduation requirements must be met by May 28.

Friday, May 30, begins with the traditional Senior Breakfast at 7:30 AM at Itasca Country Club in Itasca, Illinois. The commencement rehearsal is held in the gym at 10:00 AM. Ken Stiff, Associate Principal, and I lead this event. I can promise you that it will be run concisely and efficiently and will require the seniors' total cooperation. Seniors must participate in the rehearsal in order to be in the commencement ceremony. The rehearsal will be followed at 11:45 by a cookout on the back lawn. The cookout is another senior tradition with lots of reminiscing, photographing, and yearbook signing.

Graduation Day is Sunday, June 1, 1:00 PM. Our commencement ceremony is a formal, dignified, outdoor event, traditionally held in the stadium. This allows maximum seating, but if the weather is inclement, the ceremony moves into the gym. Participation in the ceremony is a privilege, not a right. Graduates may choose not to participate. Please call Mary Holda at 847-718-4415 by May 20, if your senior is not participating.

Commencement ceremony tickets are distributed at the rehearsal. Each senior is given four guest tickets. Usually this number of tickets is sufficient. Requests for additional outdoor tickets and tickets for handicapped guests are made by calling Maria Eichstaedt, 847-718-4480 through Friday, May 23. There is no reserved seating. Gates (or doors) will open at 12:00 noon.

If the ceremony must be moved inside, only two of the additional tickets will be honored in the theater and cafeteria where the ceremony will be aired on closed-circuit television. Handicapped seating will be available in the stadium and indoors. If the ceremony is moved indoors, all guests must enter by the two main entrances at the east and west sides of the building.

We expect all guests to remain seated throughout the ceremony. Please do not attempt to move toward the platform or graduate seating area to take photographs. We have hired a professional photographer to photograph each graduate as the diploma cover is received. The color proofs will be mailed to the home of every graduate within a week. Enlargements are available at a reasonable price. This service will enable all parents to have pictures of their graduates without disruption and distraction. You are welcome to take pictures before and after the ceremony, but please respect the other graduates and guests by remaining seated throughout the ceremony.

In the ceremony graduates are given diploma covers, not diplomas. After the ceremony they will return to the field house where they will be given their diplomas and copies of their immunization and health records. These are documents that students frequently request after graduation, and so we give them to graduates to save a return trip to our Registrar.

Graduates are expected to be dressed appropriately for the commencement ceremony. The young men are expected to wear dress shirts, ties, and dress slacks. Young women are expected to wear dresses. All graduates should wear dress shoes. Graduates who are not dressed appropriately will not be permitted to participate in the ceremony. All graduates will wear green caps and gowns. Those who have received senior medallions and chords will wear them over the gowns. No other accessories are permitted. Graduates are to be empty handed until they receive their diploma covers. They should not be holding flowers, balloons, or gifts.

The Class of 2008 is a special class. I respect them for all that they have achieved and for the fine leadership that they have offered to their school. I am confident that they will make us all proud again on their graduation day. I look forward to being there with you.

If this letter raises questions, I welcome your call.

Sincerely,

Dr. Nancy Holman
Principal

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