



## **Thomas A. Edison HS Class of 2022**

# **Graduation Packet & Important Dates**

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## **2022 Graduation Informational Packet**

### **Graduation Date and Time:**

Graduation will be held at EagleBank Arena, on **Tuesday, May 31<sup>st</sup> at 7:30 p.m.** The ceremony will last about 2 hours. Traffic due to the graduation ceremony will be heavy. Please plan for this and leave early to arrive on time.

The Graduation Ceremony will be live streamed on Tuesday, May 31 from EagleBank Arena. A streaming link will be sent out through e-Notify prior to the ceremony once Memories Videography creates the streaming link.

### **Behavior Expectations:**

We need to respect and honor the rules and expectations of the county leadership. Graduation is a dignified ceremony to recognize your accomplishments and to present you to the public as enlightened citizens. Be respectful of the ceremony and the speakers. Hopefully, this will set the stage for future goals and accomplishments. Graduation is a time to be honored; celebrations should come later with family and/or at graduation parties.

### **Graduation Attire for Seniors:**

Graduation is a time to dress, act and behave as our best selves. Graduates and guests are expected to dress appropriately and behave respectfully. Please keep in mind the FCPS Dress Code that is listed in SR&R. **If a student needs assistance with their attire, please see your counselor; we will be happy to help.**

### **Dress for Graduates:**

- Dress (not short)
- Skirt (not short)
- Blouse
- Nice pants (no jeans or shorts)
- Button-up collared dress shirt and tie
- Shoes: Flat dress shoes or flat/wedge sandals

### **Absolutely Not Allowed:**

- **Jeans**
- **Shorts**
- **Sneakers**
- **Tennis shoes**
- **Flip flops**

**If a student is not dressed appropriately or displays inappropriate behavior, they will be removed from the ceremony and will not be allowed to walk across the stage.**

### **Graduation Caps:**

Graduation caps should be uniform. Decorations will be allowed, they should be in good taste.

- o Cap decorating: the decoration cannot be obscene/lewd, disruptive to the graduation or collide with the rights of others to be secure and let alone.
- o Decoration must be flat; not three dimensional(No objects, stuffed animals, bells, flowers or any 3D object; must fit within bounds of cap and not over the edge
- o Cap cannot make noise
- o No numbers other than the graduation year
- o Appropriate; SR&R still applies
- o If you mess up decorating your cap, you will not get another one.
- o If your cap decoration is deemed inappropriate, we do not have extra caps. You will be “capless” during the ceremony.
- o Appropriate Examples:
  - Thank a parent, grandparent, guardian, teacher
  - Recognize post-secondary plans (college, trade school, military)
  - Graduation Year
  - Recognize high school activities
  - Include inspirational message
  - Leave blank. Decorating your cap is optional
- o Not appropriate Examples:
  - Abbreviating Fordham University
  - Nothing that would embarrass anybody’s parents/grandparents
- o Administration will check all caps and reserve the right to disallow anything that is not considered appropriate for the commencement ceremony; it will be our judgment.
- o Decorate wisely. We do not want you or your family to be disappointed.

**Prohibited Items:**

Per FCPS Graduation Guidelines, the following are prohibited at EagleBank Arena:

- Noise makers of any kind
- Helium balloons, beach balls, silly string, bubbles and any other material which can be thrown and/or projected

Violation of these rules could result in your removal from the stadium by Edison HS security even if you have not received your diploma. If you do not receive your diploma at Graduation, then you need to schedule an appointment to pick it up at Edison the following week.

**Students will not be able to have cell phones or any electronic devices with them from 6:30 p.m., when they enter EagleBank Arena, to the end of the ceremony.** The security team will be checking students before graduation begins and will confiscate any items that violate these rules. The only item a graduate should carry with them into the stadium is their car key if they must drive themselves to the event. **We are asking that families and students carpool to EagleBank Arena to alleviate parking and traffic complications.**

**Name Pronunciation for Graduation:**

Students will be listed in the graduation program and called their preferred name. Be sure to meet with your Counselor to ensure the pronunciation of your preferred name to be read at graduation.

## Guests and Tickets:

**Doors and Tickets** – Tickets are not required. Seating will be first come, first served. The doors open one hour prior to the start of the event. **Students must arrive and be seated by 6:30 p.m.** Students will proceed out of the EagleBank Arena using the North Tunnel. **Parents and students should meet at the North Entrance** after the ceremony concludes. Please make exit arrangements with family prior to graduation since the EagleBank Arena will be clearing the parking lot quickly.

## Dues and Obligations:

- All financial obligations (lost books, school equipment etc) fees, (technology, art class etc) or senior dues, must be paid on [MySchoolBucks.com](https://myschoolbucks.com) or by cash by May 1st. Any fees accrued after May 1st, should be finalized prior to purchasing a Prom ticket (latest, May 12) if attending, or by Friday, May 20 on [MySchoolBucks.com](https://myschoolbucks.com) or by cash. Please note that it is advised to finalize all fees and obligations prior to the May 1<sup>st</sup> deadline, as fees will take an extensive time to finalize.
- Invoices for class fees, FCPSon Technology Fees, and testing fees were sent to all families via [MySchoolBucks.com](https://myschoolbucks.com) and/or e-mail at the beginning of the school year. It is your responsibility to log into [MySchoolBucks.com](https://myschoolbucks.com) to pay these invoices. Senior Dues are paid via the [MySchoolBucks.com](https://myschoolbucks.com) school store. You will not see an automatic invoice for the senior dues as it is a school store item that you must click on to pay.
- Obligations for lost textbooks or other lost/damaged school equipment must be paid by cash in the finance office prior to May 1st.

**No student will be able to pick up their cap and gown or participate in the graduation ceremony if they have not rectified their financial obligations.**

If you have questions about how to pay obligations (lost books, school equipment etc) fees, (Technology, art class etc) or senior dues, then please check with Mrs. Pilcher in the finance office (703- 924-8015).

## Caps & Gowns:

Caps & Gowns will be distributed to students who do not have financial obligations after the final graduation rehearsal. **If you have not ordered your cap and gown, email Ms. Reid ([LAReid@fcps.edu](mailto:LAReid@fcps.edu)) with your name, ID number, and your height. We will do the best we can to accommodate your gown size, but at this point, we cannot guarantee your exact size.**

## Accessible Seating:

We will be providing handicapped parking near the stadium and seating on the track for two persons. If your family plans to utilize the handicapped accessible seating area or has any additional special needs for the ceremony, then you must contact Kathleen Racek ([ktracek@fcps.edu](mailto:ktracek@fcps.edu)), Graduation Coordinator, ASAP as we will need to have enough wheelchair accessible seating available; we must know **in writing** by **Monday, May 16, 2022.**

**Transportation & Parking:**

All students, families and guests are responsible for their own transportation to the EagleBank Arena. Parking can be limited so please carpool when possible. Parking will be handled by the EagleBank Arena traffic marshals and is available on a first-come, first-served basis. For directions or parking information, please visit the George Mason University visitor website: <https://www.eaglebankarena.com/article/maps-directions>

**Photography & Videography:**

Individual pictures of graduates receiving their diplomas will be taken by LifeTouch. One picture will be taken on stage receiving their diploma and one picture will be taken off stage. Information about pictures will be in your ceremony program. Additional information and access to commencement images may be obtained by visiting <http://events.lifetouch.com>.

The Graduation Ceremony will be recorded by Memories Videography. Information about ordering a video download, a DVD or a Blu-Ray may be obtained by visiting this link:

<https://www.memoriesvideography.com/product/thomas-a-edison-graduation/>

## IMPORTANT SENIOR CONTACTS

- **All Financial Obligations (Senior Dues, Fees & Obligations)** - [MySchoolBucks.com](http://MySchoolBucks.com); Angela Pilcher, 703-924-8015, [acpilcher@fcps.edu](mailto:acpilcher@fcps.edu), Finance Office
  
- **Prom** - Senior Class Sponsors
  - Antionette Dent ([ATDent@fcps.edu](mailto:ATDent@fcps.edu)), Room C215(Advisory)
  - Emily Oliff ([EGOliff@fcps.edu](mailto:EGOliff@fcps.edu)), Room C208(Advisory)
  
- **Correct Name on Diploma** - Krystal Brooks([klbrooks@fcps.edu](mailto:klbrooks@fcps.edu)), Student Services, (703)924-8022
  
- **Graduation Announcements, Class of 2021 Rings, Class of 2021 Gear**
  - Balfour([balfournova@yahoo.com](mailto:balfournova@yahoo.com)), (703)941-1430
  - order on website: [www.balfour.com/virginia/alexandria/thomas-a-edison-high-school](http://www.balfour.com/virginia/alexandria/thomas-a-edison-high-school)
  
- **Graduation Rehearsals** - Kathleen Racek([ktracek@fcps.edu](mailto:ktracek@fcps.edu)), Room D126(Advisory)
  
- **Yearbook** - Vanessa Briggs([vmbriggs1@fcps.edu](mailto:vmbriggs1@fcps.edu)), Room C202(Advisory)
  
- **Graduation Pictures** - Lifetouch(<http://events.lifetouch.com>), (800)736 - 4775
  
- **Graduation Ceremony Video - Memories Videography**  
(<https://www.memoriesvideography.com/product/thomas-a-edison-graduation/>)
  
- **Class Administrator, Administrative Assistant, Cap & Gown Sizing**
  - Tim Boyd ([TBoyd@fcps.edu](mailto:TBoyd@fcps.edu)), (703)924-8151, Sub School 1
  - Leah Reid ([LAREid@fcps.edu](mailto:LAREid@fcps.edu)), (703)924-8250, Sub School 1

# MANDATORY PRACTICES AND MEETINGS

**All Graduation practices and meetings are mandatory!** The meetings and practices will start at the times listed. **Do not be late.** *Remember: All FCPS substance abuse and behavioral standards must be upheld for all Graduation-related events.*

## THURSDAY, May 26<sup>th</sup>

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**Graduation Rehearsal 1: Arrive & be seated by 1:45 pm, rehearsal begins at 2:00 p.m. in the EHS gym**

- Receive updated line up assignments
- Review decorum and protocol
- Practice line up
- Review and practice procedures for processional, receiving of diplomas and recessional (this will happen once without staff and once with staff )

PLEASE PLAN FOR REHEARSAL TO LAST AT LEAST TWO HOURS

## FRIDAY, May 27<sup>th</sup>

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**Graduation Rehearsal 2: Arrive & be seated by 1:45 pm, rehearsal begins at 2:00 p.m. in the EHS gym**

- Receive line up assignments
- Discuss decorum and protocol
- Practice line up
- Discuss and practice procedures for processional, receiving of diplomas and recessional (this will happen once without staff and once with staff )

PLEASE PLAN FOR REHEARSAL TO LAST AT LEAST TWO HOURS

Caps & gowns and graduation tickets will be distributed to those who have met **ALL** obligations, directly after our final rehearsal.

## TUESDAY May 31<sup>st</sup>

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**Graduation: 7:30 p.m. at Eagle Bank Arena at George Mason University**

**\*\*\*\* Students are to arrive, for staging in the gym, at 6:15 p.m. \*\*\*\*  
Students are to be in their seats by 6:30 p.m.**

## Other Important Dates:

- May 13: Senior Prom, River View at Occoquan, 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
- May 19 - 24: Senior Exams
  - May 19 - Blocks 6 & 8
  - May 20 - Blocks 5 & 7
  - May 23 - Blocks 2
  - May 24 - Block 1 & 3 - 11:14 a.m. dismissal
- May 25:
  - Senior Laptop Collection
  - Senior Choice Awards, 5:00 p.m.
- May 26:
  - Senior Laptop Collection
  - Graduation Rehearsal 2:00 p.m. in Edison HS gym
  - Senior Academic Awards Ceremony, 7:00 p.m.
- May 27:
  - Senior Laptop Collection
  - Graduation Rehearsal 2:00 p.m. in Edison HS gym
- May 31:
  - Graduation, 7:30 p.m., EagleBank Arena (arrive by 6:15 p.m., seated by 6:30 p.m.)
  - May 31<sup>st</sup> - All Night Grad Party 11:00PM at Lee District

## Edison High School Graduation Floor Layout - Eagle Bank Arena

