



Thomas A. Edison HS Class of 2023

Graduation Packet & Important Dates

Pamela Brumfield, Principal

Dr. Kendria Boyd, Assistant Principal and Senior Class Administrator

Sonam Tailor, Class of 2023 co-sponsor

Sarah Mahan, Class of 2023 co-sponsor

Kathleen Racek, Graduation Coordinator

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2023 Graduation Informational Packet

Graduation Date and Time:

Graduation will be held at EagleBank Arena, on **Tuesday, June 6th at 9:30 a.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, June 6 from EagleBank Arena. A streaming link will be sent out to the community prior to the ceremony, once we have the information.

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 8:30 a.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 to the public one hour prior to the start of the event. **Students must arrive by 8:00 a.m. and be seated by 8:30 a.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:

- Class fee obligations, due now and be paid online through MySchoolBucks.com.
- Any fees accrued after May 1st, should be finalized prior to purchasing a Prom ticket if attending, or by Monday, May 15 on MySchoolBucks.com or by cash(exact change) in the Finance Office. Please note that it is advised to finalize all fees and obligations prior to May 1st, 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 and/or e-mail at the beginning of the school year. It is your responsibility to log into MySchoolBucks.com to pay these invoices. Senior Dues are paid via the 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.

Summary of Financial Office Schedule for Seniors:

Up to May 15 :	MySchool bucks
May 16, 17 18 :	Finance office by cash only (8:00 AM - 3:30 PM)
May 19, 22, 23, 24:	No payments can be made
May 25 to June 2:	Finance office by cash only (8:00 AM - 3:30 PM)
June 5:	PE workroom by cash only

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. Hiwot (LHiwot@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:

Eagle Bank Arena has handicap accessible parking on the grounds of the stadium. Graduates, family members and guests may utilize the accessible parking, but all must have a DMV authorized handicap tag/pass in order to utilize the handicap parking. There is a drop-off area at the West entrance where family members may be dropped-off close to the doors of Eagle Bank Arena.

We will be providing handicap accessible seating to family members and guests during the graduation ceremony for up to two persons. If your family/guests plan to utilize the handicap accessible seating area or have any additional special needs for the ceremony, then you must contact Kathleen Racek (KTRacek@fcps.edu), Graduation Coordinator, ASAP as we will need to have enough handicap and wheelchair accessible seating available; we must know **in writing(email)** by **Monday, May 15, 2023**.

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. Information about ordering a video download, a DVD or a Blu-Ray will be shared as soon as we receive the information.

The Graduation Ceremony will be live streamed on Tuesday, June 6 from EagleBank Arena. A streaming link will be sent out to the community prior to the ceremony, once we have the information.

IMPORTANT SENIOR CONTACTS

- **All Financial Obligations (Senior Dues, Fees & Obligations)** - MySchoolBucks.com;
 - Angela Pilcher, 703-924-8015, acpilcher@fcps.edu, Finance Office

- **Prom** - Senior Class Sponsors
 - Sonam Tailor (STailor@fcps.edu), Room C112(Advisory)
 - Sarah Mahan(SMMahan@fcps.edu), Library

- **Correct Name on Diploma** - Tawanna Bates(TJBates@fcps.edu), Student Services, (703)924-8022

- **Graduation Announcements, Class of 2023 Rings, Class of 2023 Gear**
 - Balfour(balfournova@yahoo.com), (703)941-1430
 - order on website: www.balfour.com/virginia/alexandria/thomas-a-edison-high-school

- **Graduation Rehearsals** - Kathleen Racek(ktracek@fcps.edu), Room D126(Advisory)

- **Yearbook** - Vanessa Briggs(vmbriggs1@fcps.edu), Room C202(Advisory)

- **Graduation Pictures** - Lifetouch(<http://events.lifetouch.com>), (800)736 - 4775

- **Graduation Ceremony Video** - Information forthcoming

- **Class Administrator, Administrative Assistant, Cap & Gown Sizing**
 - Dr. Kendria Boyd (KDBoyd@fcps.edu), (703)924-8151, Sub School 1
 - Lula Hiwot (LHiwot@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, June 1st

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

MONDAY, June 5th

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 June 6th

Graduation: 9:30 a.m. at Eagle Bank Arena at George Mason University

****** Students are to arrive, for staging in the gym, at 8:00 a.m. ******
Students are to be in their seats by 8:30 a.m.

Other Important Dates:

- May 11: Edison Academy Awards,
- May 12: Senior Prom, River View at Occoquan, 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
- May 22: Thespies Edison Theater Awards, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
- May 25 - 31: Senior Exams
 - May 25 - Block 8
 - May 26 - Blocks 5 & 7
 - May 30 - Block 2 & 6
 - May 31 - Blocks 1 & 3 - 11:14 a.m. dismissal
- May 25:
 - Senior Laptop Collection, 2:45 - 4:00 pm (Library Lobby)
 - Senior Choice Awards, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. in the auditorium
- May 30: Senior Laptop Collection, 2:45 - 4:00 pm (Library Lobby)
- May 31: Senior Academic Awards Ceremony with reception, 7:00 p.m.
- June 1:
 - Senior Laptop Collection, 12:00 - 1:15 pm, 4:00 - 5:30 pm (Door 5)
 - Graduation Rehearsal 1:45 p.m. in Edison HS gym
 - Edison One Acts, 7:00 p.m.
- June 2: Edison One Acts, 7:00 pm
- June 5:
 - Senior Laptop Collection, 12:00 - 1:15 pm, 4:00 - 5:30 pm (Door 5)
 - Graduation Rehearsal 1:45 p.m. in Edison HS gym
 - Varsity Sports Awards, 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium
- June 6:
 - Graduation, 9:30 a.m., EagleBank Arena (arrive by 8:00 a.m., seated by 8:30 a.m.)
 - June 6th - All Night Grad Party 11:00PM at Lee District

Edison High School Graduation Floor Layout - Eagle Bank Arena

