

IMPORTANT GRADUATION EVENT DETAILS – PLEASE READ

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As graduation approaches, we are excited to celebrate this important milestone with you and your students. Please review the following important details carefully to ensure a smooth and successful experience for all.

CAP AND GOWN INSTRUCTIONS

- Do not iron or steam your gown, as this may cause permanent damage.
 - Do not machine wash or dry clean your gown.
 - If cleaning is necessary, spot treat gently using a mild detergent and a towel.
 - To avoid wrinkles, hang your gown immediately—do not leave it folded or packed away.
 - For minor wrinkles, hang the gown in a steamy bathroom while showering. The indirect steam should help relax the fabric safely.
 - **Cap and gowns will be distributed to students during school the week of 5/11.**
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GRADUATION REHEARSAL – TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2026

- Rehearsal is mandatory for all students.
- Students must arrive at school by 10:00 AM.
- The school will provide transportation to and from the Basilica.
- Students will return to school after lunch.

Dress code: Students may dress out of uniform but must dress modestly and conservatively. The following are not permitted:

- Sweatpants or running pants
- Ripped jeans
- Flip flops or Crocs
- Tight or revealing clothing

Students not adhering to the dress code will be asked to return home and change.

GRADUATION CEREMONY – WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2026 at 10:00 AM

- The ceremony will be held at the Basilica.
- Students must arrive by 9:00 AM to ensure a timely start.
- Washington, D.C. traffic can be unpredictable, so please plan accordingly to arrive on time.
- Graduation typically ends between 11:30 AM-12:00 PM

TICKETS

- In your cap and gown package, you will receive **5 tickets** for preferred seating.
 - Only individuals with these tickets will be permitted in the designated preferred section.
 - Additional guests are welcome and do not need tickets for general seating located behind the preferred section.
 - Tickets cannot be replaced if lost, so please keep them in a safe place.
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CORDS AND MEDALS

Students who receive medals during the Senior Awards Ceremony are encouraged to wear them with their cap and gown at graduation.

Some students will also receive cords. If your student has been awarded a cord, it will be included in the cap and gown packet. We ask that students wear these cords during the graduation ceremony.

Please note that students are not permitted to wear anything with their cap and gown other than school-issued medals, cords, or NHS stoles. Outside stoles, cords, sashes, pins, or medals are not allowed.

FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

All outstanding financial obligations must be met before diplomas are issued.

PARKING AT THE BASILICA

There are two designated parking areas at the Basilica, where parking is free and available during hours of operation.

Parking Option 1: The primary visitor parking lot is located directly to the left of the Basilica, next to the Rosary Garden. The lot can be accessed via Harewood Rd NE, just north of Michigan Ave NE. You'll see a sign at the entrance that reads: "National Shrine Parking: Visitors."

Parking Option 2: When arriving at the main entrance to the Basilica via Michigan Ave NE, there are a limited number of parking spaces available to the right, adjacent to the east side of the building.
