McLean High School
1633 Davidson Rd
McLean, VA 22101

Monday, March 25, 2019

Dear Senior Class and Parents/Guardians:

Graduation and related activities will take place very soon. In order to make these events successful and allow each family to make the appropriate plans, we are providing the following schedule and information.

There are a little more than 2 months left in this school year and these days will go by quickly. This is not the time to slack off or stop pushing to achieve. Please don't give your seniors permission to miss school. Not only are these last weeks here important to their education, but they are also essential for character building. Stressing the importance of good attendance and reliability now sets a standard for future college and workplace attendance.

There are many events our Seniors will be looking forward to such as participating in our 3rd annual Highlander Internship Program (H.I.P.), attending Prom, heading to Hershey Park, and participating in graduation practice. We want this time to be fun and eventful for each student, but we also want all of our students to be safe and walk across the stage at Constitution Hall on Monday, June 3. As your son/daughter prepares to attend the McLean High School Senior Week events, it is an appropriate time to review the substance abuse policy and the consequences of violation as it pertains to school sponsored activities. Please know that **seniors in violation of substance abuse policies within thirty days of any of the Senior Week activities (including the Senior Trip to Hershey Park, Convocation, and the Graduation Ceremony) will not be permitted to participate in those activities**. Violations include the use, possession, distribution, manufacturing, giving, and being under the influence of a controlled substance, imitation controlled substances, illegal drugs or intoxicants, including alcohol, while on school property or while attending a school activity such as Prom, the Senior Trip, Convocation, or Graduation. Please do not allow substance abuse to ruin what should be a joyous time for all students and their families. We want this to be a safe and happy time.

We are very proud of the Class of 2019 and have been honored to work with them toward this most significant accomplishment. The following letter is packed with information so please read it carefully. Should you have any questions regarding the information, please contact Mr. Nick Corsi - njcorsi@fcps.edu and/or Emily Jaffa - ebjaffa@fcps.edu.

Thank you for all your outstanding support. We look forward to seeing you and celebrating with you!

Sincerely,

Ellen Reilly	Sean Rolon	Nick Corsi	Emily Jaffa
Principal	Class Administrator	Class Sponsor	Class Sponsor

Important Dates and Events for Seniors

Date	Event	Description
Monday, April 1	Highlander Internship Program (HIP) Applications Due	Applications should be turned in to the main office.
Friday, April 26	All Senior Dues must be turned in	$130, can be paid through MySchoolBucks https://www.myschoolbucks.com/ver2/login/getmain?requestAction=home
Saturday, April 27	Prom	Westwood Country Club - 8pm - midnight
Friday, May 10	Sign Language Interpreter Requested	Email request to Kathleen Otal at kjotal@fcps.edu.
Friday, May 10	All permission trip forms for Hershey Park are due	Forms returned to appropriate bin in the Main Office
Saturday, May 11	5K	**https://tinyurl.com/yy7q8jxk**
Friday, May 17	Pictures due for the Senior Slideshow	Pictures emailed to Senior Class Officers at mhssga2019@gmail.com
Friday, May 17	Last day of school for seniors participating in HIP	Seniors participating in HIP are exempt from their final exams. All outstanding work for classes must be turned in no later than Friday, May 17.
Monday, May 20	HIP Begins	Seniors participating in HIP will report to internship site
Tuesday, May 21	Senior Exams	Seniors Exams for Periods 2 and 4
Wednesday, May 22	Senior Exams	Senior Exams for Periods 5 and 7
Thursday, May 23	Senior Exams	Senior Exams for Periods 3 and 6
Friday, May 24	Senior Exams	Senior Exam for Period 1
Friday, May 24	HIP Ends	Last day for seniors participating in HIP to report to their internship site
Tuesday, May 28	Senior breakfast and trip to Hershey Park	Breakfast and slideshow begin at 7:30 am followed by the field trip to Hershey Park
Wednesday, May 29	1st Graduation Rehearsal	Mandatory practice at 9:45 am in the Lower Gym, students who do not attend WILL NOT participate in commencement ceremony on June 3
Thursday, May 30	HIP Presentations	The HIP Presentation fair will take place immediately before Convocation starting at 8 am in the cafeteria and lower gym lobby. Parents are welcome to attend.
Thursday, May 30	Convocation	Convocation will take place in the Lower Gym at 9:45 am - 11:15 am
Friday, May 31	2nd Graduation Rehearsal	Mandatory Practice at 9:45 am in the Lower Gym, students who do not attend WILL NOT participate in commencement ceremony on June 3
Sunday, June 2	Baccalaureate	3:00 pm - 4:00 pm at Redeemer Lutheran Church 1545 Chain Bridge Road, McLean, VA 22101
Monday, June 3	Graduation at DAR Constitution Hall	2:30 pm Commencement Ceremony, all graduating students must report to McLean no later than 12:30 pm
Monday, June 3	All Night Graduation Party	11:00 pm – 5:00 am at Spring Hill Recreation Center

Senior Dues and other Obligations

Senior dues are now $130.00 per student and cover cap and gown, diploma cover, one tassel, rental of the DAR Constitution Hall, Senior Trip, and other graduation costs. Students who have not yet paid senior dues must do so by April 26, 2019. Go to MySchoolBucks to pay all dues - https://www.myschoolbucks.com/ver2/login/getmain?requestAction=home. Families who are unable to pay the senior dues due to financial hardship should contact their child's counselor so that we can work with them. All discussions will remain confidential.

All obligations must be paid before students will receive graduation tickets and caps and gowns. *Seniors will be able to find out if s/he owes any obligation from previous school year starting April 1st, and for the current school year starting May 6th*. Obligations can be due to the following reasons: Senior dues, lost/damaged textbook dating back to freshman year, course fee(s), parking fees, library fees, AP testing fee, etc. Please note that teachers will be updating the obligation sheet up until June 1.
Students should also contact Ms. Nolasco in the Main Office to see if they have any other financial obligations. **All financial obligations must be paid before students will be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony.**

Prom

The McLean High School Prom will take place on April 27, 2019 at the Westwood Country Club in Vienna from 8:00 pm - midnight. **Tickets will go on sale Monday, April 1st through MySchoolBucks and will be on sale until Thursday, April 25th at 3:00 pm.** The cost of prom tickets will be $65.00. Students may purchase a maximum of two tickets. Once purchased, students should print out the receipt from MySchoolBucks and go to the main office to pick up tickets. Please have your date's first and last name to share with the staff member who is distributing the tickets. If you are bringing a date who does not attend McLean High School, you must fill out a guest form (located in the front office). Bring the filled out guest form when picking up tickets.

Senior Exam Schedule

DATES	PERIODS	
Tuesday, May 21	2 and 4	early dismissal day for seniors
Wednesday, May 22	5 and 7	early dismissal day for seniors
Thursday, May 23	3 and 6	early dismissal day for seniors
Friday, May 24	1	early dismissal day for seniors

Graduation Rehearsal #1 and #2 - ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY!

On Wednesday, May 29th at 9:45 am and Friday, May 31st at 9:45 am all seniors must meet in the McLean High School cafeteria for graduation rehearsals. Those individuals who fail to attend the rehearsal will be excluded from the graduation ceremony. No one will be excused from this rehearsal unless prior approval is granted by Sean Rolon, Administrator - sprolon@fcps.edu.

Seniors will be given seating and marching arrangements and will practice the processional and recessional for graduation. A complete rehearsal of the program will be conducted and caps, gowns, and tickets for graduation will be distributed. All textbook fines, library fines, parking fines, senior dues, and other obligations must be paid in order to receive caps, gowns, and graduation tickets. Please note that this will be the only opportunity to pick these items up.

Following Graduation Rehearsal #1, seniors who have met all their academic and financial obligations will receive their caps and gowns. Following Graduation Rehearsal #2, seniors who have met all their academic and financial obligations will receive their tickets for graduation. Each student will receive five graduation tickets.

Senior Breakfast and Senior Trip to Hershey Park

On Tuesday, May 28th, all seniors should meet in the McLean High School Cafeteria at 7:30 am for their final Senior Breakfast.

Immediately following the Breakfast in the Cafeteria, the Senior Slide Show will begin. In order to make the Senior Slide Show both fun and a memory to last long after the students have left McLean, we need pictures. We are looking for memorable pictures that show the seniors throughout their career at McLean. If you have any pictures that fit the bill (minimum of 2 pictures and maximum of 5 pictures), please email them to the senior class officers at mhssga2019@gmail.com. In order to make the show as professional as possible, all pictures must be turned in by Friday, May 17.

At approximately 8:30 am, all seniors who have met their academic and financial obligations (as well as completed the necessary field trip permission forms - due Friday, May 10) will board motor coaches for Hershey Park. Seniors going on the trip should be aware that weather conditions could vary in early June, but tend to be on the hot side. As a result, students should dress accordingly, while keeping in mind that since this is a school-sponsored event, the FCPS dress code is still applicable. Seniors will return to McLean at approximately 9:00 pm that night.

Students have received their permission forms for this trip during a senior class meeting and must return the forms to the front office by Friday, May 10. Seniors who have not received a form or who have lost their form should pick up a new copy from the front office.

HIP Presentations and Convocation

HIP Presentations

On Thursday, May 30th, all seniors participating in the Highlander Internship Program will present on their experiences. The presentation fair will be from 8 am - 9 am and will take place in the cafeteria and lower gym lobby. All seniors participating in HIP must present on their experience. Parents are welcome to visit the fair. All seniors presenting will immediately head to the auditorium at 9am to prepare for Convocation.

Convocation

All seniors who have received their caps and gowns will participate in Convocation (McLean's annual school wide celebration of the senior class). **Seniors are to wear their caps and gowns over casual clothes for this event.** In addition, seniors may decorate their caps (in a school-appropriate manner) to celebrate their accomplishments. These decorations must be removed, however, prior to the graduation ceremony.

Seniors are to meet appropriately dressed in the auditorium at 9:00 am for the Convocation Processional. The ceremony will begin at 9:45 am in the Lower Gymnasium. Parents are invited to attend this event, but be aware that since all sophomores and juniors attend this event, it is best to arrive early to get a good seat.

Graduation

Graduation will be held at DAR Constitution Hall, 18th and D Street, NW, Washington, DC, on Monday, June 3 at 2:30 pm. For directions, visit https://www.dar.org/constitution-hall/hall-event-directions

The doors will open to the public at 1:30 pm. There will be no admittance to Constitution Hall without a ticket. Each senior who has fulfilled his/her financial and academic obligations will receive five tickets for the graduation ceremony at the first graduation practice. The doors to DAR will close promptly at 2:20 pm.

- If there is an additional need, parents and students are encouraged to share extra tickets with those who need them.

- Handicapped accessible seating is provided on the main floor of DAR Constitution. Because the number of these seats is limited, please understand that your entire family may not be able to sit in this area. Also, be aware that even with handicapped accessible tickets, the maximum number of tickets for each graduating senior is still five (unless arrangements have been made to obtain additional tickets via the other means described above). If you need assistance with handicap seating, email Laura Venos at lvenos@fcps.edu.

- If you require a sign language interpreter please make that request, in writing, by emailing Kathleen Otal (kjotal@fcps.edu) by Friday, May 10, 2019.

- **All school fees, fines, obligations, parking tickets, returned checks, and Senior Dues must be paid and attendance at all graduation rehearsals is MANDATORY in order to receive your tickets and to participate in the graduation ceremony. Students, who have not paid their fines, will not receive a copy of their diploma.**

All graduates MUST ride the school-provided bus to graduation. Students must be at McLean no later than **12:30 PM on June 3**. Prior to getting on the buses, students will be searched for items that are prohibited during the ceremony. Students will only be allowed to bring an Identification Card/Driver's License and car key with them to DAR Constitution Hall. **Students cannot have their phones on them for the graduation ceremony.** Buses will leave promptly, DO NOT BE LATE! Transportation will be available for all seniors to return to McLean but graduates who wish to leave Constitution Hall after the ceremony with their parents may do so.

Tips on transportation and parking

- If you can get someone to drive you, this is the way to go! Another option is to take a taxi or Uber.

- Take the Metro to the Farragut West stop (10-15 minute walk to Constitution Hall).

- If you drive, parking garages are located in the area of New York and Pennsylvania Avenues, and 17th and 18th Streets, but please be advised that parking is very limited. You may be able to reserve a parking space at Colonial Parking at 18th and G Streets (202-298-7120) or at other locations through Parking Panda: http://tinyurl.com/k46ut3w.

- **Please be aware that you cannot save seats for members of your party who arrive after you – you must all be seated at the same time, or expect to sit separately, so coordinate your transportation plans accordingly!**

- Consider making a dinner reservation downtown for after the ceremony, to avoid having to drive home in rush hour traffic!

A respectful, dignified ceremony has been planned that will require everyone's cooperation. Lifetouch Photography will have a photographer taking photos of each graduate as they receive their diploma. Parents will be able to view those photos after graduation on Lifetouch's website and purchase a copy if they wish. No messages on caps or gowns, noisemakers, or any other inappropriate toys or items such as signs, balls, balloons, etc. will be permitted. Food and drink are not permitted. In addition, no backpacks, briefcases, or large containers of any kind will be permitted inside Constitution Hall. All such objects will be confiscated at the door. All guests should plan to arrive at DAR early since there is no admittance after the ceremony begins promptly at 2:30 pm. Those who violate the formal and secure atmosphere, including students, will be immediately escorted from the ceremony. Remember, we are guests at the DAR and a reflection of our community.

The dress code for Graduation is as follows:

Gentlemen
White or light colored shirt with tie
Khaki or dark colored slacks (no shorts)
Dress shoes (**no boots, sandals, sneakers, or flip flops**)

Ladies
Appropriate business casual attire
Modest heels or flats (**no sandals or flip flops)**

Make plans with your family for a meeting place outside of DAR Constitution Hall after the ceremony. You will not be allowed back into the building after the ceremony. Graduates will exit through both the C Street and D Street exits depending on what section they are sitting in. Students with last names beginning A-Lec will exit on C Street. Students with last names beginning Led - Z will exit on D Street.

Video

Memories Videography will be recording our graduation service. If you would like a copy of the DVD or Blu Ray, please fill out the attached form and return to anne@memoriesvideography.com, fax to (804)273-1872, mail to
Memories Videography
3966 Springfield Road
Glen Allen, VA 23060
or order online at https://www.memoriesvideography.com/product/mclean-high-school-graduation/
For a livestream to the graduation ceremony please follow this link:
https://livestream.com/accounts/7787388/events/8617449

All Night Grad Party

Date: Monday, June 3 at Spring HIll Recreation Center Time: 11:00 pm to 5:00 am Dress: Casual
Contact: Margarita Collantes or Lisa Haas at ANGP@mcleanptsa.org.
Students may find information about ANGP and order tickets here: http://mcleanptsa.org/?page_id=96