

Lakeside School
Lakeside Union School District

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Bakersfield, California 93311-9756
Mike McGrath, Assistant Superintendent/Principal
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April 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians of 8th Grade Students,

I'm very happy to share some good news about 8th Grade Graduation. Even though this year didn't go as we wanted, we're still planning to have a commencement ceremony while also preventing the spread of COVID-19. The ceremony will be at 6:30 pm on Friday, May 28th, at the Independence High School Football Field. The ceremony will look different from those we've had in the past in order to follow local and state safety protocols. Graduates will be allowed to have two guests. The graduate and two guests will be seated together on the football field, eight feet apart from other graduates/guests. In the coming weeks we will contact you to register to attend the ceremony, when to come to school to pick up your child's gown, and to share other graduation information.

Safety Protocols

We will continue to identify and monitor the county risk level and make required adjustments to our commencement ceremony just as families must adjust their private celebrations. Our ceremony will adhere to the following guidance issued by the California Department of Public Health:

- All attendees, including school staff, students and families are counted toward any occupancy capacity limit.
- Attendance is limited to school staff, graduates, household members, and family members.
- All attendees must wear masks throughout the venue.
- Temperature checks of all attendees entering the facility.
- Attendees must sign-up in advance of the graduation, and only those who have pre-registered may attend.
- Persons who are particularly vulnerable to COVID-19 (e.g., due to age or underlying conditions) are discouraged from attending. Individuals who are sick or in isolation or quarantine must remain at home.
- Travel restrictions apply - no out of state visitors.
- Attendees arrive and exit in an orderly manner that encourages social distancing.

Academics

Below is the 8th Grade Graduation criteria. Please encourage your child to continue to make their best effort for the remainder of the school year.

1. Sustain a cumulative Grade Point Average of 2.0
2. Maintain a respectable level of conduct with no more than 6 disciplinary referrals and/or 2 suspensions.
3. Not exceed an absentee rate of 20% of the total number of enrolled school days and no verification of illness forthcoming.

Additionally, please be aware that clothing must be age-appropriate and adhere to the school dress code for the graduation ceremony.

- Graduation Dress
 - Red Gown for ceremony (no caps)
 - Clothing underneath gown must conform to school dress code
 - No shorts
- Girls:
 - If wearing a dress or skirt, it must be knee length or longer. No strapless, backless, excessively revealing dresses.
 - If not wearing a dress, follow the same clothing guidelines as the boys.
 - Shoes that can be walked in comfortably without stumbling.
- Boys:
 - Long slacks (any pants other than blue jeans or shorts)
 - Shoes (dress or casual)
 - Shirt with a collar
- Flowers, excessive jewelry, hats, gloves, sunglasses, balloons, etc. will not be permitted.

Our goal is to honor all graduates in a dignified manner so that we can look back upon this ceremony with pride. Please contact the school if you have any questions.

Best Regards,

Mike McGrath
Assistant Superintendent/Principal