



Newport News Public Schools  
**GRADUATION FESTIVITIES/CELEBRATIONS**

**Important Graduation Ceremony Update**  
June 9, 2020

Families and Graduates,

In light of recent changes to restrictions on public meetings under COVID-19, Newport News Public Schools is taking further action to ensure that our graduates and their families have a memorable commencement experience. ([en español](#))

On Friday, June 5, the Commonwealth of Virginia entered Phase Two of the [Governor's Executive Order Number Sixty-Five and Order of Public Health Emergency Six, Phase Two Easing of Certain Temporary Restrictions Due to Novel Coronavirus](#), allowing in-person public gatherings of up to 50 people. In response, Newport News Public Schools has adjusted the planning for commencement ceremonies to allow graduates and their accompanying family members to participate in a ceremony which will be held inside Todd Stadium the week of June 15.

<b>Graduation Ceremony Schedule</b>	
<b>Achievable Dream High School</b>	<b>Friday, June 19 beginning at 10 a.m.</b> <i>Rain date: Friday, June 26 at 10 a.m.</i>
<b>Denbigh High School</b>	<b>Thursday, June 18 beginning at 10 a.m.</b> <i>Rain date: Thursday, June 25 at 10 a.m.</i>
<b>Heritage High School</b>	<b>Friday, June 19 beginning at 12 p.m.</b> <i>Rain date: Friday, June 26 at 12 p.m.</i>
<b>Menchville High School</b>	<b>Monday, June 15 beginning at 10 a.m.</b> <i>Rain date: Monday, June 22 at 10 a.m.</i>
<b>Warwick High School</b>	<b>Tuesday, June 16 beginning at 10 a.m.</b> <i>Rain date: Tuesday, June 23 at 10 a.m.</i>
<b>Woodside High School</b>	<b>Wednesday, June 17 beginning at 10 a.m.</b> <i>Rain date: Wednesday, June 24 at 10 a.m.</i>

### **Commencement Ceremonies**

The opening festivities will feature recorded greetings from the Superintendent, School Principal, School Board members and the Senior Class President or other class representative, followed by the recorded Valedictorian and Salutatorian addresses.

Graduates and their guests are asked to arrive at Todd Stadium in the same vehicle at the time indicated on the graduate's vehicle ticket. While there is no limit to the number of guests in the vehicle, all occupants must adhere to all passenger safety laws including the use of seatbelts and child

restraints. Upon arrival, graduation ceremony staff will direct drivers to a specific location to check in. During the check-in process, a placard with the graduate's name will be given to the driver to display on the dashboard; the graduate will receive a card with his/her name and ten (10) commencement programs. At the conclusion of check in, the driver will be directed to a location to park the vehicle. When directed to do so, all occupants of the vehicle, including the graduate, will exit the vehicle and enter the processional line up.

It is important that all graduates and guests follow the directions of our staff and maintain a six-foot distance from other groups of participants. All guests are encouraged to wear face coverings during the event; however, the graduate will be asked to remove their face covering prior to walking on stage. Family members and guests will be directed to proceed to the guest area in front of the stage, where they may cheer and take a picture of their graduate while on stage. Accommodations will be available for guests who may need to be seated during this period.

As the graduate approaches the stage, he/she will give the identification card to the processional guide. The graduate's name will be announced over the public address system, and the graduate will pick up his/her diploma cover and proceed across the stage.

The school principal and assistant principals will greet the graduate from the upper level of the stage to ensure safe distancing. When the graduates leave the stage, they will pick up their diploma prior to rejoining their family and proceeding out of the stadium.

### **Live Broadcast**

During the vehicle procession, graduates and guests may listen to the ceremony on the stadium's sound system or on an assigned FM radio signal.

To accommodate family and friends locally and globally, the commencement ceremonies may be viewed live on NNPS-TV (Cox channel 47 in Newport News and Verizon fios channel 17), [Youtube.com/nnpstelecom](https://www.youtube.com/nnpstelecom), [nnpstv.com](http://nnpstv.com), ROKU and Apple TV.

### **Rebroadcast Schedule**

The graduation ceremonies will be available on [Youtube.com/nnpstelecom](https://www.youtube.com/nnpstelecom) and will rebroadcast on NNPS-TV Cox Channel 47, Verizon Fios Channel 17, Roku, Apple TV and [www.nnpstv.com](http://www.nnpstv.com) during the weeks of July 13 and July 20, 2020:

- An Achievable Dream High School's graduation ceremony will air on Monday, July 13, at 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. and on Monday, July 20, at 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.
- Denbigh High School's graduation ceremony will air on Tuesday, July 14, at 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. and on Tuesday, July 21, at 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.
- Heritage High School's graduation ceremony will air on Wednesday, July 15, at 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. and on Wednesday, July 22, at 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.
- Menchville High School's graduation ceremony will air on Thursday, July 16, at 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. and on Thursday, July 23, at 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.
- Warwick High School's graduation ceremony will air on Friday, July 17, at 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. and on Friday, July 24, at 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.
- Woodside High School's graduation ceremony will air on Saturday, July 18, at 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. and on Saturday, July 25, at 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.

DVDs of the graduation ceremonies will be available for purchase for \$20 (after July 31, the cost is \$25 each). For more information or to order a DVD, visit [www.nnpstv.com](http://www.nnpstv.com) or call (757) 591-4687.

### **Graduation Attire**

Though outside, commencement exercises are a formal occasion. Graduates must wear their cap and gown (and school division issued stoles and cords) to participate in the ceremony. Because this is an outdoor ceremony and it will be warm, NNPS is relaxing traditional standards for dress and asks that graduates and guests dress comfortably, but appropriately, for this event. While there is no specific dress code, we ask that graduates avoid wearing denim or jeans.

NNPS encourages all graduates and guests to wear face coverings or masks upon exiting their vehicles. Graduates may remove their face coverings before crossing the stage.

### **Additional Information**

Families in need of special accommodations, including those who may need transportation to and from Todd Stadium, should contact their school principal for assistance. For more information about the NNPS graduation plan, visit [www.nnschools.org/graduation](http://www.nnschools.org/graduation) or call your high school office.