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April 23, 2024

Dear Senior Graduates and Parents:

Graduation is considered to be a momentous life experience, a door opening to a bright future of hope and opportunity. Kelso High School's graduation ceremony is rich in dignity and long-standing tradition. Our staff cares deeply about making this event a dignified ceremony to honor the accomplishments of our students. Past tradition has included the publication of the top 5% in The Daily News. The Daily News has elected not to include the top 5% list in the publication this year; as a result, we will include those honors in our June Parent Newsletter. Please be on the lookout for this recognition.

As the graduation ceremony is a monumental event to celebrate, it is important for all students and parents to understand that student behaviors from this day forward can and will impact their opportunity to participate in this event. We want to ensure that every student who has met the graduation requirements is able to participate in graduation events. With this in mind, we offer some guidelines for graduation along with the following schedule.

Guidelines: Graduation and Baccalaureate are dignified, traditional ceremonies at Kelso High School. Your dress and behavior honor these traditions. Any student or adult who is under the influence of alcohol or drugs will be denied participation in Baccalaureate practice, graduation practice, the actual ceremonies and the senior party. Distractions such as noisemakers, air horns, bubbles, silly string, balloons, and signs blocking the view of others, etc. are inappropriate as they detract from the students being honored. Balloons are not allowed at graduation. Students or adults who bring these items will be asked to surrender the items or be removed from the ceremony. Decoration of caps is not allowed for graduation. This may result in a student being removed from participating in graduation.

Reservation of Seats: This year, families will be allowed into the stadium at 9:00 am. Kelso High employees will not be responsible for ensuring your seats are held until the ceremony begins, so please plan for an adult or teen over the age of 16 to stay with your selected seats. An exciting addition to this year's events is the "Reserved Seating Drawing!" During graduation practice, all graduating seniors will have an opportunity to win a group of reserved seats; we will randomly award 2 seniors with 5 reserved seats each. If your student wins, you will be notified with directions for selecting your seats. These seats **WILL** be held in reservation by a KSD employee.

Sheri Walker

Principal, Kelso High School

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

May 9	Audition for Graduation Speakers
May 23 6:00 pm	National Honor Society Cords Inductee Ceremony
May 24 1:00-3:00	Post Secondary Celebration (KHS South Gym)
May 29 7:00-8:00 pm	Senior Reception & Tea (KHS Commons)
June 1	AVID Celebration Night (KHS Commons)
June 4	Technology Turn In
June 5 6:00 pm	Senior Scholarship Night (KHS South Gym)
June 5	All Senior Grades Submitted
	Senior Last Day of School
	Final Day to be Included to Walk at Graduation
June 6 8:30-10:00	Department Awards
10:00am	Baccalaureate Practice
7:00-8:00 pm	Baccalaureate (South Gym)
June 7 8:00-12:00	Graduation Practice (KHS South Gym, Stadium)
	Senior Lunch
12:00 - finish	Graduation Parade (After luncheon)
June 8 1:00	Graduation Ceremony for Class of 2024

• Thursday, May 9, 2:30pm Auditions for graduation speakers

All seniors are welcome to audition to speak at graduation. Sign up for the graduation speech in your Class of 2024 Google Classroom by May 7. Auditions will be by appointment with the senior class advisor and administration. Each speaker has an approximate time of five minutes. The top speakers will be notified following the auditions.

• Thursday, May 23, 6:00 pm National Honor Society Cord Ceremony

National Honor Society members will be awarded their Senior Honor Cords at our Annual Induction and Honor Cord Ceremony at 6pm on Thursday, May 23rd . All Honor Society members should plan to attend. Students are encouraged to dress nicely (business casual) for the event. The ceremony will be followed by a light reception of cake and punch to honor our students.

• Friday, May 24, 1:00-3:00 Post Secondary Celebration

Career Center will host a celebration for Seniors that have made the commitment to pursue their post-secondary goals. There will be games, activities, slushies, and a photo booth. Students are encouraged to wear gear that represents their post-secondary plans or Hawaiian gear.

- **Wednesday, May 29, 7:00 pm Senior Reception**

The annual Senior Reception is scheduled from 7:00 to 8:00pm in the Kelso High School cafeteria. Parents and grandparents of all seniors are invited to attend this special event. This is a catered dessert reception. Attire for all students should be semi-formal or business professional (as if interviewing for a job). Bell Studios will be available for family pictures and a link to order will be provided via Skyward.

- **Thursday, May 30, 6:00 pm AVID Stole Ceremony**

- **Tuesday, June 4 Senior Technology Turn in**

All seniors will be required to turn in their Chromebooks. Chromebooks, chargers and cases must all be turned in or students will receive a fine and NOT receive their diploma.

- **Wednesday, June 5 Graduation Eligibility Deadline**

All senior grades and graduation requirements are due by the end of the school day on Wednesday, June 5th. Students who will not be eligible to participate in the commencement ceremony; however they may still receive their diploma if graduation requirements are completed after June 5th .

- **Wednesday, June 5, 6:00pm Senior Scholarship Night**

The Senior Scholarship Night honors seniors who have achieved special recognition for scholarship and academic achievement. This event is scheduled for 6:00 pm in the South gym. Students who will receive awards or scholarships will receive a special invitation; however, all seniors and their parents are welcome to attend. Attire for all students attending this event is semi-formal or business professional (as if interviewing for a job).

- **Thursday, June 6, 8:30am Department Awards & Baccalaureate Rehearsal**

Seniors will report to the South gym for department and club awards at 8:30 am. Students who will receive awards will be mailed a special invitation; however, all seniors and their parents are welcome to attend. Following the **department awards**, practice for Baccalaureate will take place. Students who are going to attend Baccalaureate should plan to stay for the brief rehearsal.

- **Thursday, June 6, 7:00pm Baccalaureate Ceremony**

Baccalaureate is a non-denominational spiritual service intended to encourage reflection and provide inspiration for graduates amidst a season of transition. Baccalaureate will be held on Thursday, June 6th at 7:00pm in the S. Gym. Seniors should plan to arrive at the high school no later than 6:30pm for Baccalaureate. This is a non-denominational service open to the public. Tickets are not needed to attend. Attire for students attending this event is semi-formal and they should arrive by 6:30pm wearing their caps and gowns.

- **Friday, June 7, 8:00am Graduation Rehearsal**

Rehearsal for Graduation is scheduled for Friday, June 7th at 8:00am in the South gym. **ATTENDANCE IS REQUIRED FOR ALL SENIORS WHO PLAN TO PARTICIPATE IN GRADUATION CEREMONIES.** Seniors will receive invitations to their senior party at this time. Lunch will be provided by the Senior Class Booster Club.

- **Friday, June 7 (After Grad Rehearsal) Class of 2024 Graduate Parade**

Following lunch, the Class of 2024 will board buses to Huntington Middle School (for those Huskies) OR walk across the parking lot to Coweeman Middle School (for those Cougars). STUDENTS who did not attend a Kelso middle school can choose to go with either group. Graduates will be celebrated and participate in festivities at the middle schools. Graduates will then board buses with a specific elementary destination (HMS to Barnes or Lexington---CMS to Butler Acres or Carrolls or Rose Valley or Wallace). Again, they will be celebrated and interact with the future graduates of Kelso High School. This is a great time to acknowledge those teachers and staff members who helped them on their trek to graduation! Students will be returned to KHS by 2:30pm.

- **Saturday, June 8th/1:00pm Graduation for the Class of 2024**

Graduation is scheduled for 1:00pm on Saturday, June 8th. The ceremony will be held at Schroeder Field (rain or shine), so please provide your graduate with an umbrella in case of inclement weather.

*Attire for Baccalaureate and Graduation is as follows; No decorations or signs on caps or gowns.

Semi-formal or business professional attire for all students for graduation (as if you are going to a job interview). Honor students may wear their honor cords and medallions if they wish. All gowns must be pressed prior to arriving at the high school. Unless students are appropriately attired, they will not march. Families in need of assistance to meet dress code requirements should contact the principal's office. Students should plan to arrive at the high school no later than 12:00pm on Graduation day.

- **Saturday, June 8th-9th/ Senior Graduation Party**

The Senior Graduation party, sponsored by the parents of the senior class, will be held from 8:00 pm-1:00 am on June 8th to early morning on June 9th. Permission slips are required to attend. Attire for the party is casual, and there is a fee of \$10. More details can be found on the flier posted on the Class of 2024 Google Classroom.

- **Friday, June 7th Projected date to hand out DIPLOMAS**

Graduating seniors will receive their diploma after all senior grades have been submitted. If you miss picking up your diplomas during the graduation practice, you can pick them up in the KHS counseling center until June 28, 2024. Diplomas may be picked up by the graduate or their legal guardian.

All student **finances and fees must be paid/cleared**. Student fines/fees can be paid in the ASB office or online at <https://wa-kelso.intouchrecepting.com/>. Inquiries about fines/fees can be made to the ASB office by calling 360.501.1800 Option 4 or emailing haley.cox@kelsosd.org.

Remember that you earn your diploma from Kelso High School with 26 credits. Take the end of your year seriously. Attend all of your classes and pass them. We look forward to seeing you at these special events! If you have any questions, please call the high school office at 501-1800.

Official transcripts will be available effective June 28th, 2024. To request an official transcript, you may do so at <https://www.kelso.wednet.edu/o/khs/page/transcript-request>.