

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Seniors,

We are one week away from graduation! Please read this email thoroughly, along with the provided links, to familiarize yourself with all details and to avoid potential issues later.

Graduation Practice: Students should arrive for graduation practice on **May 22nd at 8:30am (same day as ceremony)**.

Attendance at graduation practice is **mandatory** for students to participate in the graduation ceremony. Students must make arrangements to attend practice and be present for the entire practice, in order to receive tickets for the graduation ceremony. Students should dress casual for practice (no cap and gown). Graduation dress code does not need to be followed at practice.

- **If any emergency arises to prevent a student from attending practice, contact Ms. Gross immediately in room B213 or @jody.gross@gcpsk12.org.**
- **Students who do not practice will not march AND will not receive tickets.**

***Seniors will take their last 2 finals early, so the last day of school will be open for graduation practice in the morning with graduation that night.*

Dues: If you have not paid dues, you still have time! Dues cover all graduation related expenses and senior events and **MUST** be paid in order to participate in the graduation ceremony. They **DO NOT** cover Prom, any sort of pictures, a yearbook, or any additional items you may want to buy to commemorate this year. Dues can still be paid [HERE](#)

- \$165 plus a \$20 Scholastic Images late fee starting 3/1/24
- Any dues paid now will also include a Scholastic Images \$15 shipping fee, since we are past the cap and gown pick up day of April 17th.

Graduation Ceremony: Graduation is **May 22nd at 8:00pm** on Markham Field at Mill Creek Community Stadium. Each senior will receive 12 tickets. These will be distributed at graduation practice. For the ceremony, **students will need to report to the Mill Creek Commons by 6:00pm**. As we communicated at the meeting in the fall, you are strongly discouraged from scheduling your students appointments or events on the day of graduation.

Reminders about tickets: As stated above, each senior gets 12 tickers. Eight of these will be a gold color and four will be blue. Both colors can be used, if the ceremony is held in the stadium. If the ceremony has to be moved indoors for any reason, **ONLY** the blue tickets can be used. No gold tickets will be allowed for an indoor event, so the blue tickets should be given to guests with highest priority for attendance. Moving the ceremony indoors will be the absolute last resort and we will make every effort to have the ceremony on Wednesday May 22nd in the stadium. We will communicate any necessary changes as needed, but hope it will not be necessary. Please see [the information and video](#) from the parent meeting in November when Mr. Lane discussed protocol regarding possible inclement weather.

Ceremony Make-up Options: We will make EVERY effort to have the ceremony at the scheduled time and in the stadium. If necessary, however, here are the possible changes in the order in which they would be attempted:

- 1) Thursday Morning in the stadium
- 2) Thursday Evening in the stadium
- 3) Friday Morning (in the gym and only the 4 blue tickets would be allowed)

***Communication about ceremony start and report times will be communicated as needed.*

Please remind all guests in your party about the following:

- **The following are not allowed into the ceremony:** noisemakers, coolers, balloons, pets (unless you have paperwork designating it as a service animal), fatheads, or anything else that could block or impede other guests from viewing or hearing the ceremony.
- Our Clear Bag policy will be enforced. Detailed information is linked [HERE](#).

Graduation Ceremony Parking: Campus parking will open at 4:00pm. You will NOT be allowed to park on campus before this time. **Gates will open at 6:00PM.** Due to the amount of people on campus for the ceremony, seniors are NOT allowed to park on campus for the ceremony, but they can ride with guests or be dropped off at the front of the school. Campus parking will be reserved for guests and school employees only. Students who are driving themselves should park at **12 Stone Church located at 3858 Braselton Hwy, Buford, GA 30519.** Charter bus shuttles will transport students from the church parking lot to the school starting at 5:00pm. The shuttle services will continue after the ceremony until approximately 11:00pm.

Graduation Dress Code for Students: Specifics regarding dress code can be [found here](#). Dress code will be enforced, so please be sure to familiarize yourself with the policy to avoid any issues on the day of the ceremony.

Student Electronic Device Policy: Students are ***NOT*** allowed to have their cell phones or any electronic devices once they report back for the ceremony the evening of graduation. This helps us maintain an efficient and nice ceremony for all involved. If students have a phone or device, these will be collected and can be picked up after the ceremony. Please discuss with your guests and senior where you should meet after the ceremony prior to graduation day.

Textbook, Chromebook, Library, and other potential fees: ALL fees must be paid, in order for a student to participate in the ceremony and to receive a diploma. Check StudentVue to ensure that all fees have been paid, if applicable, before graduation day in order to avoid delays on graduation day. [MORE INFORMATION ON CHROMEBOOK RETURNS](#)

Baccalaureate: Hamilton Mill United Methodist Church on Sunday, May 19, 2024 @ 3:00 PM

- Doors will open for guests at 2:30 pm. Guests will enter at the covered portico entrance.
- Seniors should arrive at 2:30 pm and use the entrance doors by the flagpole.
- Cap and Gown Attire is Required to Participate
- ****RSVP IS REQUIRED**** [Click Here to RSVP](#)

As a thank you to the church for hosting the service, we would like for our senior class to 'give back' by stocking the food pantry. Although not required to participate in the service, we would like all participants to consider bringing three canned goods on the day of the service. Donation drop-off baskets will be available upon arrival. Donations needed include: Canned Pasta, Canned Tuna and Chicken, Canned Fruit, Soup, and Peanut Butter

The church will live-broadcast the service for family and friends to enjoy from home. A link will be posted, with additional information.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to Mrs. Jody Gross @ jody.gross@gcpsk12.org

Sincerely,

Mill Creek Senior Sponsors

Jody Gross, Andrew Holbrook, and Elizabeth Summerlin