



Northwood High School

Home of the Timberwolves

"For the good of the Pack"

March 18, 2022

Dear NHS Seniors and Parents,

Congratulations to you and to your family as you finish your senior year at Northwood High School! This has been another challenging year but we are so proud of all of our students and their hard work as they complete their final semester of their compulsory education. NHS has worked hard to ensure students are well prepared for the next step in their lives and we are looking forward to celebrating with your family and students. This letter and the packet attached will include important information regarding Commencement and other senior activities. Our hope is to provide you with all of the details of the celebrations as well as include helpful information on ensuring the safety of our seniors during this exciting time. We hope you will review all deadlines and information as a family.

The class of 2022 has approximately 575 seniors. This year we will return to the UCI Bren Center for the NHS Commencement Ceremony on Thursday, June 2nd at 5:15pm.

Participation: Students will be allowed to participate in the ceremony if they have completed ALL required credits. Participation in the ceremony is a privilege, not a right. Students who enter the school campus to participate in a "school prank", or trespass when the campus is gated and closed for the evening will lose their opportunity to participate in end-of-year activities and the commencement ceremony. Even a plan to "toilet paper" the school may result in damage, restitution, and/or arrest, as well as loss of all senior activities, including the student's commencement ceremony. If you become aware of such a plan, do not participate. Remember, you have a responsibility to help protect your school and preserve it for those who follow.

All seniors must be dressed in a NHS cap and gown in order to participate in the commencement. Students have the option to purchase the cap and gown or borrow. Students who have chosen to borrow a cap and gown from Jostens must return all pieces to the school after the ceremony or no money will be refunded and the diploma will be held. For students who did not turn in their initial order paperwork, they may still purchase a cap and gown on Cap and Gown Distribution Day on May 24 and May 25 in the Quiet Room in the Library for \$40 (cash only). The cap and gown may not have any items attached, draped or written on them, other than the honors cords and regalia awarded to seniors by the school for academic recognition. Please understand that if a senior brings any item that could potentially disrupt the ceremony or any item that violates school or district policy, that senior may be removed from the ceremony.

Seniors who have overdue textbooks, library fines, lunch fines, and/or athletic fines will not be able to pick up their diplomas until those obligations are taken care of. Students will be reminded of their fines on cap & gown distribution day. If your student receives a notification of outstanding fines, please see that these obligations are cleared as soon as possible.

Rehearsal: Seniors who meet all graduation requirements and who choose to go through the Commencement exercises are required to attend rehearsal on Wednesday, June 1st. Seniors must report to the NHS theater at 9am. Seniors must make the adjustments to their work schedules accordingly. Attendance at rehearsal is required for your participation in the graduation ceremony on Thursday, June 2nd.

Seniors may NOT bring cell phones, money, purses, yearbooks, cameras, flowers or valuables into the gym on graduation day. Guests will not be permitted to bring balloons or noisemakers into the ceremony. There will be no provision for securing valuables.

Tickets: Admission to the ceremonies will be by ticket only. There will be no ticket sales at the door. Each graduate will receive two free tickets. An additional 4 tickets may be purchased for \$12 each (see attached form). Tickets are required for admittance to the facility. One ticket will admit one holder to the Commencement Ceremony.

COVID Guidelines: *

- Face Coverings are required for all individuals while inside indoor facilities on UCI campus (including but not limited to: staff, clients, participants, spectators, visitors, vendors, etc. who access the facility)
- Health Screening Check process being followed by CDPH guidelines for all individuals who plan on entering the facility (including but not limited to: staff, graduates, clients, participants, spectators, visitors, vendors, etc. who access the facility)

- Valid Vaccine Card or Negative Covid-19 Test must be presented with valid photo ID for individuals 16 and over prior to entering the facility
 - Negative result *Antigen Test* ☐ within 24 hours from Event
 - Negative result **PCR Test** ☐ within 48 hours from event
- All individuals **Age 3** and over must provide required documents
- Currently onsite (Bren staff affiliates) are handling Health screening check areas and will issue all persons entering the facility a designated wristband that enables access into the facility.

***Guidelines subject to change**

Please note: The ceremony will be livestreamed for those unable to attend.

Seating: The graduation facilities at the Bren Center will open for seating 60 minutes before the ceremony. Seating will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Parking: parking is available for \$13 at the Bren Center parking structure (100 Mesa Road, Irvine 92697).

Diplomas: Graduates receive their diploma covers during the ceremony. Students may pick up their diplomas in the NHS Admin. Office on Friday, June 3rd (from Noon-4pm) and Monday, June 6th through Friday, June 24th (from 8am to 2pm). Graduates with unfulfilled obligations, such as non-returned textbooks and/or library books, unpaid fines, will have their diplomas held by the school until such obligations are fulfilled.

Photographs: Professional photographers will be taking photos of graduates in a formal setting prior to the ceremony. During the ceremony, parents and guests may NOT approach the stage or disrupt the flow of seniors by taking personal photos or video from anywhere but their seats in the bleachers. In order to preserve the dignified tone of the ceremony, we ask parents and guests to remain in their seats throughout the ceremony.

Seniors who do not meet graduation requirements: On Tuesday, May 31st, the NHS counselors will complete final graduation checks for all seniors based on the final grades submitted by teachers that day. If a senior has not met all subject and credit requirements, each counselor will notify the senior and their parents.

On Wednesday, June 1st, any senior who has not completed all subject and credit requirements must participate in a conference with their parent and counselor. At that conference, the senior will complete a signed contract regarding his/her plan to complete all requirements prior to the first day of school of the next school year, in order to receive an NHS diploma. (Due to the fact that seniors and their families will have been notified throughout the spring semester if there was cause for concern, there will be no surprises at any senior/parents/counselor conference on June 1st.) Seniors who have not completed all subject and credit requirements by June 1st will not be allowed to participate in the commencement on Thursday, June 2nd.

Senior Activities: There is no authorized “ditch day” for seniors. Seniors truant from school on a “ditch day” will lose their opportunity to participate in senior activities and the Prom. This type of unsupervised activity puts students’ safety and well-being in jeopardy.

Grad Nite Activities: The PTSA parents of the seniors are sponsoring a Grad Nite Party at Disneyland on Friday, June 3rd from 6:30PM to 3:30AM. Please see the enclosed information. Participation in the Grad Nite Party is optional and seniors must purchase a ticket to participate. **Last day of ticket sales is 3/31/22.** No ticket sales after this date. Seniors must have a ticket to attend the event. For more specific information regarding Grad Nite, contact NHS parents at GradNightPTSAhhs@gmail.com. Grad Nite is sponsored and coordinated by the PTSA Grad Nite Committee.

Outside Senior Trips: We would like to make it very clear that any “Senior Trips” taken after graduation to places such as Hawaii Mexico, etc. are not school sponsored; therefore, we do not accept any responsibility for students who participate. These trips are offered by private groups and are completely independent of the Irvine Unified School District and their policies. School officials share concern about the quality and safety of many of these trips and we ask our parents to evaluate them carefully.

Northwood High School’s Commencement for this senior class will be an exciting and memorable occasion. Through their outstanding accomplishments in academics, athletics and the visual and performing arts, this graduating class has continued to set high standards for those who follow. We share your pride in this very special Graduating Class of 2022 and hope that you will join us in celebrating as they graduate from Northwood High School. If you have further questions, do not hesitate to call our office at 936-7200.

Sincerely,

Leslie Roach
Principal, Ed.D.

Jennifer Ollila
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Irvine Unified School District