



# Northwood High School

*Home of the Timberwolves*

*"For the good of the Pack"*

January 25, 2024

Dear NHS Seniors and Parents,

Congratulations to you and your family as you finish your senior year at Northwood High School! 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 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 2024 has approximately 576 seniors. This year we will return to the UCI Bren Center for the NHS Commencement Ceremony on Thursday, June 6th at 5:30pm.**

## **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.

## **Senior Graduation Clearance Form**

The **Senior Graduation Clearance Form** must be completed by all seniors. The forms will be distributed to seniors at the end of May with detailed instructions on when it must be completed and returned.

## **Caps & Gowns**

All seniors must be dressed in an NHS cap and gown in order to participate in the commencement. Students have the option to purchase the cap and gown or borrow. The cap and gown may not have any items attached, draped or written on them other than honors cords awarded to seniors **by NHS 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

For students who did not turn in their initial cap and gown order paperwork, they may still purchase a cap and gown but must order through Jostens by May 1<sup>st</sup>. Caps and gowns and tickets will be distributed on June 5th (Rehearsal Day). There will be a **limited** number of caps and gowns for sale on Rehearsal day for \$40 (cash only). Distribution will be in the gym from 8am to 9am and a half hour after rehearsal.

Students who have chosen to borrow a cap and gown from Jostens must return all pieces to the school after the ceremony or the diploma will be held.

### **Rehearsal**

Seniors who meet all the graduation requirements and who choose to attend the Commencement are required to attend rehearsal on **Wednesday, June 5th. Seniors must report to the NHS theater at 9am.** Seniors must make the adjustments to their work schedules to allow them to attend the rehearsal.

**Attendance at rehearsal is required** for student participation in the graduation ceremony on Thursday, June 6th.

### **Commencement Day - Thursday, June 6th – Seniors must report to the Theater at 3:30pm.**

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

### **Commencement Ceremony – 5:30pm on Thursday, June 6<sup>th</sup> – Ticket Information**

Admission to the ceremony will be by ticket only. There will be no ticket sales at the door. One ticket will admit one holder to the ceremony. Each graduate will receive 2 free tickets. An additional 4 tickets will be available for purchase.

Families who wish to purchase additional tickets (in addition to the 4) will be given that information at a later date.

*All ticket purchasing information will be given to seniors and their families at a later date.*

**Seating** – The Bren Center will be open for seating 60 minutes before the ceremony. Seating will be available on a first-come, first serve basis. **Guests will not be permitted to bring balloons or noisemakers into the ceremony.**

### **Parking**

Parking is available at the Bren Center parking structure (100 Mesa Road, Irvine, 92697). Parking passes purchased (online) before June 1<sup>st</sup> will be \$15.00. Parking passes purchased the day of the event are \$18.00. Information to purchase online will be emailed to parents.

### **Diplomas**

Graduates receive only their diploma covers during the ceremony. Students may pick up their diplomas in the NHS Administration Office beginning Friday, June 7th (from noon to 2pm). The office will be open for diploma pick-up June 10<sup>th</sup> – June 14<sup>th</sup> from 8:30am – noon. Please check the office (949-936-7200) for additional dates. 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 the 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 that parents and guests remain in their seats throughout the ceremony.

### **Seniors Not Meeting Graduation Requirements**

On Tuesday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, 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 Tuesday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, any senior who has not completed all subject and credit requirements must participate in a conference with their parents and counselor. At that conference, the senior will complete a signed contract regarding their plan to complete all requirements prior to the first day of school of the next school year in order to receive an NHS diploma. (Since 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 4<sup>th</sup>.) Seniors who have not completed all subject and credit requirements by June 4<sup>th</sup>, will not be allowed to participate in the commencement on Thursday, June 6<sup>th</sup>.

### **Senior Activities**

There is no authorized “ditch day” for seniors. Seniors truant from school on “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.

### **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 will 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.

### **Grad Night Activities**

The PTSA parents of seniors are sponsoring a Grad Night Party at Disney’s California Adventure Park Friday, June 7th from 3:30pm to 3:30am. Please see the enclosed flyer with additional information.

Seniors must have purchased a ticket to attend the event. For more specific information regarding Grad Night, contact NHS parents at [gradnight@northwoodpts.org](mailto:gradnight@northwoodpts.org). Grad Night is sponsored and coordinated by the PTSA Grad Night Committee.

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 2024 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 949-936-7200.

Sincerely,

Leslie Roach

Brandon Emery

Jennifer Petrosian

Principal, Ed.D.

Dean of Operations

Student Activities Director