

COMMENCEMENT 2017

Archbishop Rummel High School

TO: Senior Class 2017
Parents/Guardians

FROM: Joseph A. Serio
Student Activities Office
jserio@rummelraiders.com

DATE: Monday, March 6, 2017

Graduation Fee

The Graduation Fee of \$260 was due on May 1, 2016. This fee covers some of the cost of Project Prom, caps and gowns, diplomas, printing of the programs, and rental of the Pontchartrain Center. This fee is non-refundable after the first semester of the senior year. No exams, report cards, transcripts, or recognition at graduation will be given to any senior whose parents / guardians have not settled all financial accounts with the school, including loans or late fees due to First NBC Bank.

Also, seniors who were awarded tuition assistance and have not fulfilled their work-study obligations by Friday, April 21 are required to pay their remaining tuition balances. Should anyone have questions about finances, please contact Ms. Pauline Lugo in the Finance Office at 504-834-5592, Ext. 269.

Graduation Announcements

The Balfour representative will be on campus on Friday, March 17 to distribute graduation announcements and other items in the Raider Room. Any announcements not claimed at that time will be returned to Balfour and seniors will have to make arrangements with Balfour to pick up their graduation orders. Questions? Call Balfour at 504-833-7330. Please note that this graduation "announcement card" is NOT a graduation "admit ticket."

Senior-Parent Meeting

A mandatory meeting of seniors and at least one parent is scheduled for Monday, April 3 at 7 PM in the gym. At this meeting school administrators will discuss all aspects of the end of the school year and all things graduation. Admit tickets for graduation will be distributed, plus Senior Breakfast and Senior Prom tickets will be available for purchase. Please have separate checks for each event. Students should attend the meeting dressed with a collared shirt, dress pants, and dress shoes with socks. They should also be properly groomed.

Admit Tickets

Tickets for admission to the graduation at the Pontchartrain Center will be distributed at the senior class meeting with parents, seniors and school administrators on Monday, April 3. Each senior will receive ten (10) tickets. Seniors who do not need all ten tickets are encouraged to give their extra tickets to other seniors who need them or to return them to Mr. Serio in Room 106.

IMPORTANT: *Any senior who needs extra admit tickets to graduation should email Mr. Serio at jserio@rummelraiders.com or give him a note in Room 106 with the senior's name and a realistic number of extra tickets needed by Thursday, April 13. Please do not request extra tickets until after the initial ticket distribution on Monday, April 3. NO EXCEPTIONS AFTER Thursday, April 13. Seniors are not allowed to buy or sell extra admit tickets. The Discipline Office will deal with violators.*

Each person who enters the Pontchartrain Center (from infant to adult) must have an Admit Ticket. Infants and young children are STRONGLY DISCOURAGED from attending the two-hour ceremony, since their behavior could disrupt the filming and recording of the ceremony. The emphasis that evening should be on the graduates and their parents and families because all seniors' names must be heard.

Scholarship Information

Any senior who has received a college scholarship offer must turn in a copy of the offer to Mr. Travis Olivier by Monday, April 24. Seniors are asked to turn in copies of all offers, not just the scholarship offer that they are going to accept. All scholarship offers turned in on time will be listed in the graduation program. Please email Mr. Olivier at tolivier@rummelraiders.com if you have any questions.

Senior Day

Members of the Senior Class will prepare a special Senior Day program for the student body on Friday, April 28 at 9 AM (Mass Schedule) in the gym. This is a day for the senior class to reflect on their time at Archbishop Rummel with their brother Raiders and underclassmen. In order to maintain the integrity of the event, Senior Day is restricted to students and faculty only. Dress for the seniors is coats and ties.

Senior Exams

Senior exams are planned for Monday, May 1 (exams A1 & B2), Tuesday, May 2 (exams C3 & F6), Wednesday, May 3 (exams G7 & H8), and Thursday, May 4 (exam D4), at times to be announced. Grooming /uniform regulations are in effect. Dismissal will be after exams.

Senior Breakfast

The annual Senior Mass & Breakfast is planned for Saturday, May 6 at the Chateau Estates Country Club. Doors will open at 8:30 AM for pictures and the Mass will begin at 9:30 AM. Seating is limited to three tickets per family, normally the senior, his mother and his father / guardians. Tickets will be available for \$30 each (same price as last year) at the Senior-Parent meeting on Monday, April 3 or after that date in Room 106. Seniors or parents /guardians may contact Mr. Serio for clarification. Dress is coat and tie.

Awards Ceremonies

End of year awards ceremonies are scheduled for seniors and underclassmen. The ceremonies are as follows: Band Awards (at Chapelle) on Monday, May 8; Sports Awards on Tuesday, May 9; and Academic Awards on Wednesday, May 10. Parents and family members are invited. Seniors receiving awards will be notified prior to the ceremony. Dress is coat and tie.

Report Cards

Senior reports cards will be emailed to the seniors' homes on Tuesday, May 9.

PLEASE NOTE: *In order to receive an Archbishop Rummel High School diploma, a senior must pass all seven credits in the senior year including service hours for religion. A senior who has not fulfilled the requirements of either the Archbishop Rummel High School curriculum or the Louisiana Department of Education curriculum will not be allowed to participate in graduation events.*

Graduation Practice

All seniors must report to the gym on Thursday, May 11 by 10 AM to practice for graduation. Absence from practice jeopardizes a senior's right to participate in graduation exercises. Caps and gowns will be distributed at this time. The graduates may keep caps, gowns, tassels, and honor stoles. Dress for practice is coat and tie. All hair and grooming regulations are in effect.

The school will not issue the cap and gown on Thursday, May 11 and the senior will not be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony until the following have been completed:

- Seniors must have returned all textbooks or have paid for lost textbooks.
- Seniors must pay all outstanding balances with food services and balances with the Finance Office
- Seniors must return all library books or pay for lost books.
- Completed service hours are due by Friday, April 21 to Mr. Matt Caire. These must be turned in for the senior to participate in graduation.

Alumni Reception

Immediately following Graduation Practice on Thursday, May 11, all seniors will line up outside the Raider Room doors on the Raider Pride Bookstore end of the building. Once seniors are ready, they will formally process through the bookstore hallway into the Raider Room. As they enter, school alumni will introduce themselves and distribute business cards from the various businesses they represent. Alumni and seniors will then share a catered meal. The Archbishop Rummel Alumni Association sponsors this event.

Senior Prom

This year's senior prom is planned for Friday, May 12 in the Alexander Room from 9 PM to 12 midnight. Dress is strictly formal. The cost is \$50 per couple and \$60 per couple at the door. Prom tickets will be sold at the Senior-Parent meeting on Monday, April 3. After that date, please purchase tickets in Room 106.

Project Prom

All seniors and their dates are invited to attend Project Prom on Saturday morning, May 13, which will be held at Archbishop Rummel immediately following the prom. Project Prom is one last time to celebrate as a senior class with games, competitions, inflatables, food, and the opportunity throughout the night to win prizes. To participate in the event, seniors must arrive no later than 1 AM; the final prizes are drawn at 4:30 AM. Project Prom is a great way to end the senior year. There is no cost to participate in Project Prom.

Graduation

The Baccalaureate Mass and Commencement Exercises will begin at 5 PM sharp on Tuesday, May 16 in the Pontchartrain Center in Kenner. Graduates should be present by 4 PM at the latest. Parents are reminded that this is a mass and graduation ceremony that could run almost two hours, and is, therefore, not a place for infants or small children.

Also, as an SMG facility, the Pontchartrain Center has a security/bag check policy and will inspect all bags. The largest bag size allowed inside the center is 14x14. Persons entering with bags larger than 14x14 will not be allowed to enter the building.

Propriety dictates that each senior wear a blue or white dress shirt (no banded collar shirts) and tie (school tie, bow tie, or any other traditional tie); black or navy dress slacks; dark socks; and dark dress shoes (not acceptable are tennis shoes, any type boot, topsiders, or sandals). Hair and grooming regulations are still in effect. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**

IMPORTANT: Any senior who is not groomed or dressed appropriately (no earrings or piercings) will NOT be allowed to participate in graduation exercises. This rule will be strictly enforced so the graduation will be a dignified ceremony.

IMPORTANT: Seniors are not to have cell phones with them during the graduation ceremony. Cell phones must be given to family members before seniors process into the Pontchartrain Center.

Admission to graduation is by an Admit Ticket only. All seating for parents/ guardians and guests is on a first come/first serve basis. Doors for the public will open at 4 PM. Priority seating for handicapped guests will be available at 3:45 PM. (See Admit Tickets)

VERY IMPORTANT: Graduation exercises will begin at exactly 5 PM, so please arrive early. Spectators not seated by 5 PM will be held in the lobby until after the graduates have processed into the building.

Photographs

Romaguera Photography and Video will take still pictures and video of graduates during the ceremony and while receiving their diplomas. Parents/ guardians and friends with cameras are advised not to approach the stage to take pictures, as this area will be closed to foot traffic. More information will be provided.

Following the commencement exercises, the new Archbishop Rummel alumni will be escorted out the Pontchartrain Center onto the Lake Pontchartrain levee where they will toss their caps on command. This is a long standing tradition of Archbishop Rummel High School.