

ATTENTION! ATTENTION! ATTENTION! ATTENTION! ATTENTION! IMPORTANT SENIOR NEWS & INFORMATION

JM Tate Graduating Senior - Congratulations! Graduation is upon us. We have thoroughly enjoyed spending the last four years with you. Take the time to familiarize yourself with the information in this document. All seniors will be held responsible for knowing and abiding by this information to participate in the commencement ceremony. Graduation is fast approaching and this is an early outline of upcoming events.

*****Graduation Requirements:** It is your responsibility to know and fulfill the graduation requirements of your graduating class. If you are unsure of your graduation status, you should meet with your guidance counselor immediately. Seniors who do not meet the requirements have already been notified.

*****Seniors Who Owe Fines:** It is your responsibility to know if you have a financial obligation that has not been cleared. Please check both Destiny and with the Media Center for *Overdue Fines or Materials*. Any senior who has not taken care of all their financial obligations to the school or associated vendors (such as Herff Jones, other schools or the photography studio) will not be **allowed to walk in the graduation ceremony**. Chromebooks, chargers, library books, library fines, textbooks, textbook fines, uniforms, band dues, DCT dues, yearbook, senior portraits, announcement orders, school associated trips, athletics, etc... **Must be taken care of NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, May 17, 2024 or your name will be removed from the commencement list.** For further assistance, contact Mr. Peacock in room 2.

*****Cap and Gown:** Cap and gowns will be distributed at the Senior Breakfast on Friday, 5/17. Gowns **WILL NOT** be available before the morning of 5/17. Seniors not attending the breakfast can pick up their cap and gown at Tate after 1pm on 5/17 in the main office. Any senior who does not receive their cap and gown on this day will have to contact Mr. Peacock via email at cpeacock@ecsdf.us to schedule an appointment to pick up their gown.

All seniors will be required to wear their cap and gown at Graduation. Try your gown on as soon as you receive it. Your gown length should be mid-calf. If your gown does not fit, please take it to Herff Jones on 12th Avenue and get a replacement immediately. Mortarboards (graduation caps) must be worn flat on the head. This will not accommodate some hair styles, so plan accordingly. The front of your cap should cover a portion of your forehead. Escambia County Public Schools do not allow messages or decorations on the cap. Seniors who show up to graduation with their caps decorated will be turned away and not allowed to participate in the commencement ceremony.

Tassels are worn on the **RIGHT** until you are pronounced a graduate. If you are receiving an honors tassel, remove the Crimson & Gray tassel and replace it with the honors tassel. The superintendent will advise you when you may turn your tassel to the left. If you are issued an honor, athletic, or ROTC medallion, cord, or stole you may wear it with your cap and gown. No other items can be worn. Nothing can be pinned to the cap or gown. You will be allowed to keep your cap, gown and tassel. Just a suggestion: You will want to keep your gown hung up so it does

not wrinkle. Keep your cap and tassel in a plastic grocery bag to keep from losing them. Place the bag handles around the hook of the hanger to keep everything together.

*****Attire to Wear with Cap and Gown: THIS IS A FORMAL EVENT – NO JEANS, SHORTS, HATS, FLIP-FLOPS, TENNIS SHOES OR T-SHIRTS WILL BE WORN WITH YOUR GOWN. IF YOU ARRIVE AT THE BAY CENTER WEARING THESE ITEMS YOU WILL NOT BE ALLOWED INTO THE BUILDING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CEREMONY.**

APPROVED ATTIRE:

Females Wear: Dress or Dress Slacks and blouse, Dress shoes with a BACK strap. Dress length should not be longer than your gown. Do not wear a dress or blouse with a collar above your gown collar.

Males Wear: Long Sleeve Dress shirt with Tie (straight or bow) and Dress Slacks with dress shoes.

If you choose to wear Personal Protective Equipment such as a face mask, it must be plain and a solid color. If you need assistance with obtaining attire for graduation, contact the guidance department. Tate is very fortunate to have a clothing closet that consists of clothing for our students.

Calendar of Important Dates:

Senior Exams: May 10-16th

More details regarding Senior Exams will be forthcoming

May 17th – Senior Breakfast of What-a-burger biscuits will be served in the Tate cafeteria at 9am. Seniors will enjoy a biscuit and beverage, view the Senior Class Video and receive their caps and gowns. This is a SENIORS ONLY event. At the Breakfast, Seniors with fines will **NOT** receive their cap and gown until fines are paid in CASH or TEXTBOOKS are returned – bring cash and unreturned books/materials as staff will be at the breakfast to clear fines. Turn your Chromebook in after your last exam on 5/15 to avoid having to bring it to breakfast. **IF YOU HAVE A FINE YOU WILL WAIT IN A VERY LONG LINE BEFORE YOU RECEIVE YOUR GOWN – PAY FINES BEFORE THE BREAKFAST!**

May 19th – A Baccalaureate Ceremony will be provided at Hillcrest Baptist Church (800 E 9 Mile Rd, Pensacola, FL 32514) at 3:00pm. Parents, family & friends are invited to attend – ALL Seniors will wear their caps & gowns to this special event and gather at the main entrance lobby at 2:45pm.

May 20th – Graduation practice will be held at **1:00 PM** in the Fryman Gym. **Attendance is MANDATORY and ANY senior who does not attend cannot participate in the Graduation Ceremony** – only those seniors with **PRIOR** written administrative approval will be excused. Practice will be approximately 2 hours and we will not dismiss until we've completed a successful run through. **Request the day off – YOU CAN NOT MISS THIS PRACTICE! School attire @ practice – If you are out of dress code you will be sent home to change!** Seniors will sit in alpha order (except those in the top 10%) and each group of 20-30 seniors will be assigned to a teacher who will be with your group during the ceremony. **BEFORE** entering the Gym look for your assigned teacher on flyers posted at the Gym entrances, then locate your teacher on the gym floor. Your teacher will go over important details and you **MUST PAY ATTENTION TO ALL OF THEIR INSTRUCTIONS**. Every senior will be assigned a specific row and seat at graduation practice and seats will be marked with name cards. There will be no

changes in those assignments after graduation practice. It is recommended that you wear your graduation shoes to practice and show them to your assigned teacher. Parents are not allowed to attend graduation practice. Do not move any of the chairs in the gym, they have been arranged specifically to accommodate the set up at the Pensacola Bay Center. Seniors wishing to participate in a pre-practice parade caravan across Hwy 29 should meet in the Winn Dixie parking lot at 12:45pm.

May 20th – Senior Honors Night will be held in the Fryman Gym at **6:00 PM**. Parents and friends are invited to attend and this event will last approximately two hours. Those being honored will be notified in advance, please dress appropriately & sit in the area reserved for Seniors on the gym floor – **THIS IS A FORMAL EVENT – NO JEANS, SHORTS, HATS, T-SHIRTS OR REVEALING OUTFITS! See Ms. Mills for details on attire.**

May 23rd – GRADUATION @ 5:30 PM at the Pensacola Bay Center. Graduates must report in their caps and gowns to their assigned homeroom teachers by **4:45 PM**. All seniors will enter the Bay Center via the back ground level entrance. You will walk through a Magnetic Screening Machine upon entering the Bay Center. Enter the Bay Center with your cap on your head, gown unzipped, and medallions/cords/stoles (if you were issued any) around your neck. Keep these items around your neck while holding them with your hand extended out in front of you. Graduates will not be permitted to bring any personal items into the Bay Center, including purses and bags. All prohibited items will be confiscated by security personnel. Phones are allowed, but must remain out of sight and silent during the entirety of the event.

Parents and guests must enter via the main entrance ramps and will also pass through Bay Center security screening. **SENIORS CANNOT BE LATE**. The Bay Center has **SEVERELY** limited parking spaces – this may require you to park further away and pay for parking. Try to arrive before 4:45pm.

You will be responsible for following the dress code as given. Failure to do so will result in your inability to walk in the commencement ceremony. You will be directed by school staff to walk through the back tunnel. Once you are on the Bay Center floor, you will look for your assigned teacher's section (**LOOK FOR THE WHITE SIGNS WITH YOUR TEACHER'S NAME**). Once you locate your teacher, you will be directed where to sit (**YOUR SEAT WILL BE MARKED WITH YOUR NAME CARD**). Once you are directed to be seated, you will not be allowed to get up or roam around. Do not move any of the chairs on the graduation floor. Once everyone is seated in your row, the teacher assigned to your seating area will go over some reminders. Listen carefully! You will stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. Male graduates should remove their caps and place it over their heart. Female graduates should place their hand over their heart. You will be instructed when you need to stand and sit during the ceremony.

All Escambia Public School Graduation Ceremonies are held to a tight time schedule and Tate's Ceremony will start promptly at 5:30 PM. If you are not seated in your assigned seat at 5:30 PM, you will **NOT** be allowed to participate in the ceremony. Security check-in will stop admitting graduates at 5:20 PM and there will be **NO LATE ATTENDANCE TO THE EVENT**. If you unfortunately arrive later to the ceremony, you will be directed by District Staff to the main Bay Center entrances to view the ceremony with the general audience. **DO NOT BE LATE – DO NOT PLACE YOURSELF IN A SITUATION IN WHICH A DRESS CODE VIOLATION REQUIRES A WAREDOBE CHANGE THAT WILL MAKE YOU LATE.**

PLEASE REMEMBER: Graduation is a dignified event to be enjoyed by the family and guests of every Graduate. Please instruct YOUR guests to NOT bring signs, noise makers, wrapped gifts or any other devices that may obstruct the view of guests or in any way distract from or disrupt the ceremony (such items will be taken at the door). Bay Center personal and police officers will be on hand to provide a safe and respectful environment. Any damage or additional clean-up to Bay Center facilities will be charged to Tate.



*****Scan the QR Code to LIVE Stream Tate's Graduation Ceremony