



www.TupeloSchools.com
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March 22, 2024

Dear Parents and Guardians:

With graduation approaching, I am sure that you and your family are making plans to honor your senior. I would like to express my personal thanks for your support of Tupelo High School. The combined efforts of our parents and community truly make a difference.

The Commencement Ceremony will take place at the Cadence Bank Arena on Friday, May 17th, at 7:00 p.m. Doors open to the public at 6:00 p.m. Graduation practice is Thursday, May 16th at 5:00 p.m. Seniors will enter from LOT C – behind the arena in the fenced lot off of Franklin Street - for practice and graduation. Parents and guests must use the public lots and entrances on the east and west sides of the arena. **Every senior who plans to participate in the graduation ceremony must attend practice and be on time. Students who do not practice may not participate in the ceremony. Practice is closed to parents and guests.**

Commencement is a formal ceremony; therefore, it is necessary for students to dress appropriately. Proper attire is black, brown, or navy pants with a white, collared, dress-shirt with a tie or a dress or skirt (all garments extending below the gown must be black, brown, or navy). Shoes should be taupe/ nude/tan, brown, or black dress shoes. Jeans are not appropriate for this ceremony. Inappropriate footwear includes tennis shoes, boots, and sandals without a heel or strap. We strongly recommend heels no taller than 3” for the safety of students entering and exiting the stage.

Caps and gowns will be available for pick up from J building during lunches beginning May 3rd. Caps may not be decorated and cords and sashes are not allowed. The only adornment THS students may wear with their gown is the THS National Honor Society stole and/or a Cum Laude medal (both are issued by THS).

Admission to the commencement ceremony requires a ticket. Graduating seniors will be allocated ten tickets each. There is no charge for tickets and we do not sell additional tickets. **All tickets are general admission and will be distributed from the Cadence Bank Arena ticket office May 13th through May 16th from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The parent or legal guardian on file at THS must pick up tickets and present a photo i.d. Tickets will not be given to students.** If your senior is at risk of not graduating, tickets will be held until his/her successful completion is confirmed. Please note that Cadence Bank Arena’s clear-bag policy will be enforced. This policy can be viewed at <http://bit.ly/3K5e6xc>. Handicap seating for guests in wheelchairs is available on the floor section immediately behind the area reserved for the graduates. Admission into this area requires one ticket for the

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handicapped individual and one ticket for his/her escort. There is limited space so only one escort is allowed.

Because graduation is a formal event, the ceremony should be treated as such. I will talk to the seniors about proper behavior, and I trust parents and guests to cooperate and emphasize to others the dignity of the occasion. These young people have worked hard; consequently, they deserve a ceremony of which they can be proud. **Please note that state law prohibits disruptions caused by noisemakers and shouting at public school sessions such as graduation. Violators will be subject to prosecution.** Please make sure your guests are aware of this law. Thank you for your help in making this special ceremony a dignified one.

A photographer will be set up backstage from 5:30 p.m. until 6:15 p.m. for graduates who wish to have a formal picture taken prior to the ceremony. Picture information and order forms will be given to seniors with their caps and gowns.

Seniors will attend class through Wednesday, May 8th. Senior exams will be given on Thursday, May 9th and Friday, May 10th with make-ups on Monday, May 13th. THS will operate an open campus during each exam day which means seniors will report only for the exam(s) they are taking. For some, graduation depends on the scores made on these exams. Please encourage your student to do well and to exercise caution coming to and leaving the campus.

Senior awards day is Friday, May 3rd at 9:00 a.m. in the Performing Arts Center. Seniors will receive honor letters, school awards, and recognitions for Hall of Fame and Cum Laude Society. Scholarship night for the presentation of local scholarships is Monday, May 13th at 6:00 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center.

In closing, I would like to congratulate you and your senior on this accomplishment. Your guidance combined with your student's hard work has led to this moment of celebration. To the Class of 2024, best wishes for your continued success and GO WAVE!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dr. Melissa Thomas". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

Dr. Melissa Thomas
Principal