

UPDATE: WE ARE INSIDE!

PARENTS “NEED TO KNOW”

Commencement 2025

REHEARSAL FAQs – WHAT’S NEW (Highlighted)

- Rehearsal on Wednesday, May 21st is **MANDATORY** for all students walking in commencement. Students should **arrive and be in the Gym by 8:15 am** so that they are seated and ready to go promptly at 8:30 am. We should be done with rehearsal by 11:30am. **REHEARSAL IS FOR STUDENTS ONLY.**
 - Make sure your graduate knows their assigned seat **color/row/number** before arriving at rehearsal. **ALMOST ALL STUDENTS HAVE NEW SEATS.** Seat assignments with student names are attached to this email.
 - Students **DO NOT** need to wear cap and gown to rehearsal.

FIELDHOUSE SIDE

STAGE

BLUE SIDE

ORANGE SIDE

A	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	A
B	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	B
C	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	C
D	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	D
E	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	E
F	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	F
G	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	G
H	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	H
I	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	I
J	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	J
K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	K
L	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	L
M	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	M
N	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	N
O	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	O
P	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	P
R	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	R
S	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	S

- AT REHEARSAL, students will get honors regalia (cords/stoles) if eligible AND a folder with alumni information, awards, **ONLY FOUR (4) BLUE GENERAL ADMISSION tickets**, medical records, transcript information & some surprises.
 - Honors designation is based on **cumulative weighted GPA as of 5/19/25**. It is NOT based on 4 or 7 semester honor roll.
 - If a student owes money to BGHS, they will not be given their regalia, folder, or tickets until all fees are paid. **Please check Infinite Campus to see if you owe money and pay ASAP.**
- If your family needs **HANDICAPPED SEATING**, your student will **EXCHANGE A BLUE TICKET FOR A HANDICAPPED TICKET** after morning rehearsal (in the principal’s conference room – next to the main office). Due to limited space, only those requiring handicapped seating are allowed in the handicapped seating area. Tickets are used to ensure we have the right number of seats available.
- Overflow seating (no tickets required) available in the cafeteria and theater. The ceremony will be livestreamed for viewing in both locations (and from home). For those viewing from home, the link to view the ceremony is: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dYc2jiXvXXk>

CEREMONY FAQs

1. Graduates meet in the **FIELDHOUSE** at **6:00pm** on Wednesday, May 21st. Family members are not allowed in the fieldhouse.
2. **The commencement ceremony starts PROMPTLY at 7:00pm** in the BGHS gymnasium and lasts approximately 90 minutes. The ceremony will be livestreamed to be viewed at home or in the **theater/cafeteria**. Doors to the gym will close at 7:00pm and will not reopen. **PLEASE ARRIVE IN TIME TO BE IN YOUR SEAT BY 6:45 pm so that you do not miss the ceremony.**
3. **Doors to the building open at 6:00 pm.**
 - a. Shuttle bus drop off is in the circle drive. Those doors will open at 6:00pm and spectators will enter the gym directly from the main foyer (on the south side of the gym).
 - b. All spectators parking in the main lot will enter through Door #1 and #2 (main gym entrances)
4. Parking is available at BGHS and offsite locations! **SHUTTLE SERVICES PROVIDED from all offsite locations beginning at 5:30pm and returning to the lots after the ceremony.**
 - Overflow parking is available at Longfellow Elementary School (501 Arlington Hts. Rd), Cooper Middle School (1050 Plum Grove Circle), and the Silk Road International School (1250 Radcliffe Rd). See map to the right.
 - **Handicapped parking** is in designated row(s) near the stadium entrance. BGHS Staff will be available to direct you to that location **if you have a handicapped placard/license plate.**
5. Bathroom information:
 - a. Students will only be allowed to use the fieldhouse foyer bathrooms before the ceremony.
 - b. Ticketed spectators will use the bathrooms in the English hallway.
 - c. Livestreaming spectators can use bathrooms in the theater foyer only.
6. We graduate in REVERSE order, with “Z” last names going first (a new experience for them) and “A” going last (no complaining allowed by the “A” families...you’re ALWAYS first!).
7. **TICKETS are required to attend the ceremony. Each student will receive FOUR (4) BLUE GENERAL ADMISSION TICKETS FOR THE GYMNASIUM AT REHEARSAL. No exceptions – this includes children and infants (due to fire code).** All other guests can view from the cafeteria/theater or home via livestream <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dYc2jiXvXXk>.
 - Seating is first-come, first-served. Seating location cannot be reserved ahead of time.
 - **Handicapped seating requires a ticket** that your graduate should have picked up after graduation rehearsal in the morning. This allows us to set up a designated area with enough seating to accommodate each person requiring handicapped seating.
8. **Every family wants to see their student and hear their student’s name read out loud.**
 - a. The possession or use of any object that would disrupt the ceremony will cause the student and/or family member(s) to be removed.
 - b. **No balloons** in the gym. They block the view of other spectators.
9. **Smoking is prohibited** EVERYWHERE on campus (including the parking lot). This includes vape pens, etc.
10. Your graduate should **iron** (on low heat) **or steam their gown** before the ceremony. Gowns taken out of the package are very wrinkled. There is an instructional video on the graduation Schoology page.
 - **Students may decorate their caps!** They must follow the guidelines set forth by District 214 (see page 4). **Inappropriate messaging will not be tolerated.** Please monitor decorations and encourage positive personal expression.
 - There is a video on our graduation Schoology page that shows how to wear the cap. Use bobby pins to fasten it to your graduate’s head if necessary (even men)! Use more bobby pins if it’s windy!
 - Students CAN wear honors regalia (stole, cord, medals, tassels) that have been **given out by Buffalo Grove High School**. They cannot wear adornments purchased elsewhere.
11. We are providing an opportunity before the graduation ceremony to purchase celebratory items for graduates in the main office foyer. BGHS receives 25% of the profits made from the sales.
12. Photos of this year's graduation ceremony will be taken by Visual Image Photography (VIP). All images will be posted online to view and order about a week after graduation. You will receive an email when they are ready to purchase, or you can visit www.vipis.com.



District 214 looks forward to celebrating our seniors on graduation day. We want to provide some additional information regarding graduation attire in hopes that we can both honor the rich heritage of academia while also allowing individual expressions and cultural joy.

- Students and staff participating in the ceremonies will generally follow the recommendations of the American Council on Education *outlined here*.
- All genders will wear the same color gown as decided by the school.
- Students wishing to wear a school-issued stole or decorate their caps are allowed to do so as long as it honors themselves and others.
- No expressions will be tolerated that have legally and historically marginalized people, promote hate, violence, illegal activities, and anything else that violates the student handbook. No Confederate Flags, Swastikas, and other symbols of hate are allowed. 1) *ADL Resource* 2) *Washington Post Resource*

GRADUATION CAP DECORATIONS:

Please follow all of these rules while decorating your graduation cap. Cap decorating will follow the existing Student Appearance (Administrative Procedure 7:160) philosophy:

- Prevent students from wearing clothing or accessories that denote, suggest, display or reference alcohol, drugs or related paraphernalia or other illegal conduct or activities.
- Prevent students from wearing clothing or accessories that reasonably can be construed as being or including content that is racist, lewd, vulgar or obscene, or that reasonably can be construed as containing fighting words, speech that incites others to imminent lawless action, defamatory speech, or threats to others.
- Ensure that all students are treated equitably regardless of race, gender/gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion, cultural observance, or body type/size.

GENERAL GRADUATION CAP DECORATING GUIDELINES:

- Graduation caps will be reviewed and approved in advance of the ceremony by the building administrative team.
- The flat, top area of the cap may be decorated and feathers can be hanging off from the sides.
- Decorations must be secured to the flat part of the surface.
- No blinking lights or anything battery operated.
- Ensure that the decorations will not come off the cap. Do not use anything that will make noise, no bells, whistles, etc.
- The following are examples of appropriate messages:
 - Thank a parent, grandparent, teacher, or friend.
 - Recognize your future post-secondary institution.
 - Your graduation year.
 - The branch of the military you will be joining.
- The following is prohibited from cap decorating:
 - Obscene, profane, vulgar or lewd messages.
 - Contain any symbols, advertisements, initials, abbreviations, words, slogans, patches or pictures that refer to drugs or controlled substances, tobacco, alcohol, weapons or be of a sexual nature.
 - Denote an affiliation with gangs.
 - Advocate drug use, violence, illegal activity, or disruptive behavior which is detrimental to the safety and welfare of other students.
 - Threaten the safety or welfare of any person.

