

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM
Series 600

Policy Title: GRADUATION CEREMONY

Code: 603.9.1

Graduation ceremonies are to be part of the accepted procedures for seniors who fulfill the graduation requirements as set forth by the State Board of Education and the Lapwai Board of Trustees.

1. The ceremonies are to be conducted in a manner of dignity and respect; dignity for all and respect for others, including your classmates, teachers, parents, board members and administration is paramount.
2. Guest speakers are not mandatory, yet may be approved in coordination and support of the principal. Speakers may be a guest or a staff member selected to address their class. Speeches must be approved in advance by the principal.
3. Music and songs may be chosen by the graduating class upon approval of class advisors and the school administration. Good taste must prevail.
4. The valedictorian and salutatorian are chosen by class ranking as determined by grade point average over the first seven semesters of high school.
5. Class colors are determined by the graduating class.
6. The class motto is also determined by the graduating class (as long as it is done in a serious manner). The class advisor will help in the selection process.
7. Traditionally, the senior class president delivers the “class history” speech, the valedictorian the valedictory, and the salutary address is given by the salutatorian. These speeches must be read and approved by the class advisors and the high school principal. The purpose for this is to edit and to ensure they are in good taste and appropriate for the occasion. Students are encouraged to include their school experience and address their graduating class.
8. The manner and order in which the graduates will march during the commencement exercises will also best be determined by the advisors and administration. The marching order will not necessarily be in relation to class rank, but rather in relation to how the graduates will best be seated on the stage and in accordance with other considerations deemed appropriate and necessary.
9. Graduation parties are not part of the responsibility of the school, but rather that of the parents. The school will provide a meeting place for parents upon request.
10. Graduation dress will be traditional cap and gown. The school provides stoles, however, additional stoles are allowed. Honors students will be provided a gold cord. Honor Society students will be provided an additional stole, cord, or pin. Students with honors will be acknowledged during the ceremony. Graduates are allowed to decorate/bead their caps. Decoration of the gown requires design preapproval from the principal. Additional decorations gifted to graduates such as leis and necklaces are reserved for the recessional line.
11. Graduation is a time for excitement and great expectations. It is expected that the utmost dignity must be exercised.
12. Diploma covers are empty when presented to graduates during the ceremony. Students sign for their diploma with a Senior Advisor following the ceremony.

Date of Adoption: 8/19/85

Revised: 4/16/12, 8/19/24

Legal References: