

March 13, 2017

Dear Senior Parents,

As we encounter the final weeks of the 2016 -2017 school year, we know that this may be a bittersweet time for many of you. While the excitement in your senior is building each day we get closer to graduation, the emotions of seeing your child close one chapter in his/her life and move on to another can be overwhelming. It is our desire and our pleasure to honor your child in a dignified ceremony that will celebrate the accomplishments he/she has achieved. This letter is intended to give you information for graduation and other important items that you need to know for the upcoming graduation events.

### **Baccalaureate, May 22**

Baccalaureate is a multi-denominational, religious ceremony prior to graduation. Whitewater High School's baccalaureate will be held on Monday, May 22, 2017 at New Hope Baptist Church South on Hwy. 74 in Peachtree City at 7:00 p.m. The students are expected to be dressed in their caps and gowns. The students will have a rehearsal earlier Monday afternoon at 1:00 p.m. which they are **expected** to attend if they are going to participate in the Baccalaureate ceremony. Participation is not mandatory.

### **Graduation, May 26**

The graduation ceremony will begin at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, May 26, 2017 at Whitewater High School in the stadium. Tickets are not issued for graduation and seating is on a first come, first serve basis. Gates will open at 5:30 p.m. Parents and/or guests will not be permitted on the track or the field during the graduation ceremony. Handicapped seating will be available on the track for those who are in need. We do request that only one family member sit with the handicapped member while the rest of the family sits in the stadium seats. This will allow us to have as many seats as possible for those who truly need this accommodation. Seniors will be able to pick up handicap parking passes after graduation practice May 25.

**During the ceremony as names are being announced, we ask that you please refrain from using air horns and/or other artificial noise makers when your child's name is announced. Although we know you will be excited and want to express your joy, loud noise makers often times interfere with the name of the student who follows. The last graduate announced is just as important as the first.**

After the ceremony, you are free to move out onto the field to take pictures and visit with your graduate. The graduates will need to report to the commons area soon afterwards to receive their graduation packets which will include their official diploma and one official transcript.

### **Parking Information**

Parking is not reserved with the exception of some handicapped spaces near the stadium. If you are in need of a handicap space, please have your student pick up a handicap-parking pass following graduation practice on Thursday, May 25.

### **Practices for Seniors**

The following dates and times are reserved for practices for the seniors participating in the ceremonies:

Monday, May 22 – Baccalaureate practice at 1:00 p.m.

Thursday, May 25 – Graduation practice at 9:00 a.m.

Friday, May 26 – Graduation practice at 9:00 a.m. (**if necessary**)

*Please do not schedule a doctor, dentist, or other appointment for your graduate on these days. Graduation practice is mandatory.*

### **Other important information**

Obligations:

Seniors **must** have **ALL** obligations cleared prior to graduation practice on May 25 at 9:00 a.m. or they will not be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony.

Beginning May 15, all obligations must be paid for in cash. To check for any outstanding obligations please log on to Infinite Campus and click on the fees tab.

Transcripts:

One official transcript and one unofficial transcript will be placed in the Senior folder that the graduates will pick up after the ceremony. To order extra final transcripts, please come by the guidance office beginning May 15. After May 26, all student records will be housed in the Records Center at the Fayette County Board of Education. At that point transcript orders have to be placed through the Records Center.

I hope this letter has been helpful and has provided you with information you need to know for this wonderful occasion. If you still have questions or need any further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me at 770-460-3935 or at [cole.steve@mail.fcboe.org](mailto:cole.steve@mail.fcboe.org).

Sincerely,  
WHS Graduation Committee