March 2019

Dear Senior Parents and Guardians:

Graduation is Wednesday, May 22, at 7:00 p.m., at the Free State High School Stadium. We are writing in anticipation of this event to inform you of upcoming senior events and the graduation ceremony. Enclosed you will find several important documents.

Your student should complete and return the Senior Exit form to Student Services by March 29. This form advises us of your student’s post-secondary graduation plan and captures scholarship information used to recognize them at our Academic Assembly on May 1. In addition, please have your student login to Parchment.com and make a NEW REQUEST to have their final transcript sent to the college they will be attending in the fall. A new request must be made, as the final transcript includes their final GPA and graduation date. Sending a transcript that does not include the graduation date will create a hold on their post-secondary enrollment.

We are very proud of the LFS Class of 2019. The administration and staff look forward to honoring them and their families. The Lawrence Free State Graduation is a formal ceremony during which seniors in good standing come forward to receive recognition for their efforts. We ask for your support to help maintain a positive tone beginning with senior week and throughout the final days before graduation. Specifically, instances of hazing underclassmen (ex. shaving heads) and vandalism of property cause serious harm and are illegal. Such acts should be reported to police. Mischievous and prankish behavior at school will not be tolerated. All inappropriate behavior will be treated seriously and can result in a student’s removal from prom and/or graduation.

Your help to create a positive atmosphere at graduation makes the event more meaningful. Please do not bring any type of noisemakers. While family and friends are as excited as the graduates, we ask that no one distract from the formality of the ceremony. Each graduate deserves to receive positive recognition and have their name heard when crossing the stage to receive their diploma. Please observe the courtesy of not obstructing the view of others by entering the areas near the podium staging area. For those wanting a picture of their graduate, a professional photographer will be present to take a picture of each graduate. These pictures may be purchased at a reasonable cost.

In keeping with the spirit of graduation, graduates should dress appropriately. Caps and gowns must be free of writing, signs, flowers, etc., with the exception of culturally related regalia. Graduates are only allowed to wear school-issued cords and honor stoles. Students who do not follow the graduation guidelines or other school policies may be denied participation and/or have their diplomas withheld until a parent conference or other requirements are met.
There will be a mandatory senior meeting on Tuesday, April 30, at 2:20 p.m., in the large gym. At this meeting, we will distribute caps and gowns and explain the nature of the graduation ceremony and the expectations of behavior. The $40 graduation fee must be paid prior to this meeting. Fees may be paid at our Free State Financial Office. The fee covers the cost of the graduation cap, gown, diploma, and diploma cover. Caps and gowns will not be issued to those students who have not paid their graduation fees by the April 25 deadline.

Graduation practices will be held on May 20. All seniors who are planning to participate in the graduation ceremony are required to attend. Please have your student check their work schedule in advance of these practices. Seniors should be at the Free State High School Stadium by 8:45 a.m., Monday, May 20. Outside practice begins at 9:00 a.m. After practicing at the stadium, students will then need to travel to Allen Fieldhouse located at the Kansas University campus. Students will need to arrange their own transportation to Allen Fieldhouse. We will begin the practice at Allen Fieldhouse at approximately 10:30 a.m. After both graduation practices, seniors will be treated to a free luncheon at the Free State High School Stadium. Senior yearbooks will be distributed at this time.

For the evening of graduation, graduates should be at the Free State High School Baseball Field by 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 22. In the event of inclement weather, the graduation ceremony will be held at Allen Fieldhouse on the campus of Kansas University. As a reminder, there is no limit on the number of guests allowed at the graduation ceremony, and there are no tickets required to attend graduation.

Graduates may pick up and sign for their diplomas in the front office of Free State beginning Monday, June 10.

Sincerely,

Myron Graber
LFSHS Principal

Lisa Boyd
LFSHS Assistant Principal
March 29  Senior Exit Form due to Student Services
April 3   Graduation Speaker Tryouts 8:05 a.m.
April 25  Cap and Gown Fees are Due
April 25  Senior Prom Court Assembly and Voting
April 26  Senior Appreciation Day - NO SCHOOL FOR SENIORS ONLY
April 27  Prom at KU Burge Union 9:00 p.m. to 12:00 midnight
April 29  Local Scholarship Recognition - Auditorium 7:00 p.m.

April 30  Required: Graduation Meeting
Cap & Gown Distribution - Free State Gym 2:20 p.m.

May 1  Academic Assembly

May 15-16  Senior Finals

May 20  Required: Senior Graduation Practices
Free State High School Stadium 9:00 a.m.
Allen Fieldhouse - KU 10:30 a.m.
Senior Luncheon and Yearbook Signing Party 11:30 a.m.
All seniors are invited free of charge.

May 22  Senior Graduation at Free State High School Stadium 7:00 p.m.
SENIORS FINAL EXAMS SCHEDULE

SPRING 2019

Wednesday, May 15

Hour 2 9:05 - 10:45
Hour 4 10:50 - 12:50
Hour 6 12:55 - 2:30

Thursday, May 16

0 Hour 7:00 - 8:00 (This exam may be given earlier)
Hour 1 8:05 - 9:40
Hour 3 9:45 - 11:25
Hour 5 11:30 - 1:30
Hour 7 1:35 - 3:10

SENIOR WAIVER REGARDING SPRING FINALS

The Attendance Secretary and Administration will not back-date any unexcused absences.

To be exempt from taking finals in May, a senior MUST have no out-of-school suspensions and meet the following qualifications:

1. No unexcused absences for that particular class.

2. Five (5) or fewer excused absences and an A or B average for that particular class.

3. Three (3) or fewer excused absences and a C average for that particular class.

4. One (1) or fewer excused absences and a passing grade for that particular class.

*All students taking class for AP or college credit are subject to teachers' course requirements regarding the final exam.

*Any school related absences are not courted toward absences listed above (i.e. band, choir, athletics, field trips, etc.)