



Rodney Arthur
Principal

Peekskill City School District

Our mission is to educate and empower all students to strive for excellence as life-long learners who embrace diversity and are contributing members of a global society.

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Dear Graduating Seniors, Parents and Guardians:

The conclusion of the 2020-2021 school year is fast approaching. I would like to take a moment to share with you some of the key events that will be occurring at Peekskill High School. In addition, I would like to reaffirm some of our expectations in regard to the successful completion of these events and the school year. Please take the opportunity to familiarize yourselves with important information regarding our procedures for the various events listed below as well as our expectations regarding student behavior during the last two months of school.

Senior Prom: The senior prom will be held on **Friday, June 11, 2021** at Factoria in Peekskill, NY. The prom starts at **6:00 p.m.** and ends at **10:00 p.m.** **Students will need to be transported to and from the prom venue by an adult. NO student is permitted to drive themselves.**

A mask will be required for entry into the prom venue. There are a limited number of seats available due to CDC guidelines. The consumption or possession of illegal drugs and or intoxicating beverages at the prom, even if a participant is of legal drinking age, is **strictly prohibited**. If a student is caught using alcohol or drugs, or appears to be under the influence, parents will be notified and disciplinary measures will be taken. If a student appears to be under the influence of any illegal substance, they will **NOT** be permitted to attend the event. *Parents will be contacted and asked to accompany their child home for the evening; parents and students will not be reimbursed.*

Additional prom guidelines, and contracts, will be presented at the Mandatory Student Prom Meetings taking place on May 25th and May 26th. All prom participants must return the prom contract signed by both students and parents/guardians by June 2nd.

Senior Award Night: Virtual Senior Award Night is scheduled for **Wednesday, June 23rd at 6:30 p.m.** **The program will be aired on the PHS Website, Optimum Channel 77 and Verizon Channel 32.** If your child has received an award/scholarship, you will receive an invitation by mail with more details. We will schedule a date and time for the students to pick-up their awards in-person after **June 23rd.**

Senior Parade: The senior parade will take place on **Monday, June 21st at 4:30 p.m.** Each student will be permitted one (1) car in the parade and must display the registration ticket. Students will be provided with a registration form in June to sign up for the parade. The parade route will go from Woodside Elementary School

to Peekskill High School. Line up will begin at **3:45 p.m.** and the parade will start promptly at **4:30 p.m.** *Parade registration tickets will be handed out at graduation rehearsal.*

Graduation: Graduation will be held on ***Thursday, June 24, 2021*** at 6:30 p.m. on **Torpy Field**. The ceremony will last approximately two hours. Guests will be permitted in at 5:30 p.m. and we ask all guests to be seated by 6:15 p.m. **If you have not entered Torpy Field by 6:15 p.m., your ticket will be forfeited. The doors will close promptly at 6:15 p.m.** and will not be reopened until **AFTER** the graduates have processed. ***Students are to arrive at 5:00 p.m. and report behind the administration building.*** All CDC guidelines must be followed while at the ceremony which include mask wearing and social distancing.

Graduation Rehearsal: Graduation rehearsals are **mandatory** for all graduates. Rehearsals will take place on torpy field **Monday, June 21st at 10 a.m.** and **Wednesday, June 23rd at 10:00 a.m.** ***Attendance is mandatory at rehearsals and students who are absent may not be able to join the graduation ceremony on Thursday June 24th.***

Ticket Information: Tickets will be given to students during graduation rehearsal **ONLY**. Each student will receive **two (2) tickets to graduation**. Due to COVID-19 guidelines and protocols, we will not be able to issue any extra tickets to students, there will be no exceptions. *Each party of 2 will be required to sit together on Torpy field due to social distancing guidelines. Seats will be spaced out in groups of two with six feet distance in between.* **ALL guests attending the graduation will be required to present a ticket in order to gain entry, this includes children as well.**

Handicapped Seating: Should you require handicapped seating accommodations, please call Ms. Clark, Principal Secretary, at (914) 737-0201 or email her at jlark@peekskillschools.org. It is very important that we know ahead of time if there will be any guests with wheelchairs or walkers, so we can have the appropriate accommodations. *Please be advised the handicapped section can accommodate only one (1) additional guest to sit with the wheelchair guest.* Any additional guests will be seated in general seating. **Please note wheelchair guests and their companion are required to have a ticket.**

Caps and Gowns: Caps and Gowns will be distributed during graduation rehearsal. If any student did not order a cap and gown, they will be available for purchase at rehearsal. The cost is **\$36.00. A cap and gown is required to participate in graduation.**

Appropriate Dress: Commencement ceremonies are one of the highlights of the year. Exemplary conduct and proper dress befitting this formal occasion are expected. We are encouraging students to wear clothing that is consistent with the occasion and appropriate for walking on the field and track (***i.e. no shorts, no sneakers or flip flops***). Also, note that high heels can damage our new turf field and may pose a risk of injury when worn on the turf. Flat shoes or low wedges are recommended for this event. Please speak with your child about making good choices for this event.

Guest Guidelines: **Each guest is required to have a ticket for entry into Torpy Field.** Guests will not be allowed to stand in the aisles or in the back of the field. All guests must be in a seat at the start of the ceremony. ***Guests are asked to remain seated during the entire event and will not be permitted into the aisles to take photographs. A professional photographer will be at this event. These pictures will be available for students***

when they pick up their diploma. Security will be present and enforcing these guidelines. **Balloons, strollers, large bags, pets (excluding service animals) and noise makers WILL NOT be allowed on the field.**

Important Dates to Remember

Event	Date
AP Exams	May 24, 2021 and June 1, 2021 – June 9, 2021.
Mandatory Student Prom Meeting	May 24th and May 25th -Virtually (<i>students will receive and invite</i>)
Prom Contracts Due (signed by students and parents/guardians)	June 2nd
Senior Prom	June 11th- 6:00 p.m.- Factoria
NYS Regents Exams	June 17th - June 24th (<i>students must have opted in for the exam</i>)
Senior Parade	June 21st- 4:30 p.m. @ Woodside
Senior Awards Night	June 23rd at 6:30 p.m - virtual
Mandatory Graduation Rehearsal	June 21st and 23rd @ 10:00 a.m. - Torpy Field (<i>caps, gowns, parade registration and tickets will be distributed</i>)
Graduation	June 24th at 6:30 p.m. @ Torpy Field (<i>students to report at 5:00 p.m.</i>)

Please remember that only students who have met **all graduation requirements** will be permitted to participate in the graduation ceremony. The most common reasons for seniors not meeting graduation requirements are poor ***attendance, incomplete work and Regents exam scores***. Please encourage students to be in school every day and to remain focused on completing their assignments necessary in order to graduate. It is also important for students to remember all school rules remain in effect until the end of the school year. Behavior that disrupts the educational process at school both virtually and in-person may lead to suspension and/or denial of all senior events, which includes attending the commencement ceremony.

It is imperative that students attend classes through the last day of instruction, which is **June 11th**.

Respectfully,

Rodney Arthur

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Principal