

Lakota West High School



Class of 2021

GRADUATION GUIDE FOR PARENTS



Dear Parents,

Each year we plan a graduation to honor our students and celebrate their success. Graduation is an important milestone for your student, and we hope to deliver an occasion that will be remembered fondly by everyone involved.

This booklet is intended to give you information for the end of year ceremonies and commencement. We will make every effort to keep you informed of your senior's academic progress and to ensure that your senior successfully completes all academic requirements. However, if at any time you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us.

On behalf of the entire staff at Lakota West High School, we wish you and your student every success for the future.

Sincerely,

Ben Brown
Principal

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

All seniors and early graduates must have completed all academic and other requirements, including Ohio state testing (Ohio Graduation Test or AIR) in order to participate in the Lakota West High School commencement.

A student who fails a second semester class that is needed to fulfill a graduation requirement *will not* be permitted to participate in commencement, even if the credit can be made up in summer school.

Class of 2021 Graduation Requirements

20 Total Credits

English	4.0 credits	Fine Arts	1.0 credit
Math	4.0 credits	Health	0.5 credit
Science	3.0 credits	Physical Education	0.5 credit
Social Studies	3.0 credits	Electives	4.0 credits

Other Requirements:

- Graduation candidates must have outstanding fees and/or any other financial obligations **paid in full by 3:00 p.m. on Monday, May 3** in order to receive a diploma at the conclusion of commencement.
- All fees and obligations must be paid **before** final transcripts will be sent out.

SENIOR ACADEMIC AWARDS PROGRAM

Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. in the Lakota West Gymnasium

This program is intended to recognize and honor graduating seniors for their academic accomplishments. Awards given on this night will include Top 25 candidates, community and school scholarships, and military awards.

Important: All seniors attending the awards program must report to Mrs. Bischoff at the check-in table on Main Street prior to the program.

COMMENCEMENT REHEARSAL

Wednesday, May 19, 2021 at (A-L) 9:00am (M-Z) 1:00pm, in the Lakota West Gymnasium.

Seniors wishing to participate in commencement on May 21 **must** attend and participate in rehearsal. Rehearsal will last approximately 90 minutes. ***Seniors who do not attend commencement rehearsal in its entirety are not permitted to participate in the commencement ceremony.*** Absences will only be excused if a statement is provided by a physician indicating the student is physically unable to participate.

COMMENCEMENT INFORMATION

Friday, May 21, 2021 at the Cintas Center at Xavier University

The address is 1624 Herald Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio.

- Two Graduation ceremonies: 5:00 p.m. (A-L) and 8:00 p.m. (M-Z)
- Doors will open to the public one hour before the ceremony.
- Commencement will begin promptly at **5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.**
- Tickets will be required. There will be 4 tickets (assigned seats) per graduate. The tickets will be given to the students on a date yet to be determined in May.

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

The Lakota West High School commencement will be conducted with dignity and respect. Graduates, parents, and guests are reminded that commencement is a ceremony, not a celebration.

Participation in commencement is optional. Graduates wishing to participate in the ceremony must adhere to the following guidelines:

Males will wear black caps and gowns. Females will wear red caps and gowns. These gowns must be rented from Graduate Services. If you would like to adjust your gown color, please see Mr. Brown.

Graduates may not bring purses or any other items to carry during the ceremony.

- **Recommended student dress**
 - White shirt, dark slacks, dark tie, dark socks and/or if wearing a dress or skirt, it should not exceed the hemline of the gown.
 - Dark dress shoes are preferred and must have a closed heels or heel strap. **It is encouraged that heels higher than 1-1/2" to 2" be avoided.** Jeans, shorts, boots, and tennis shoes are not permitted.
- Pictures may be taken from the seating area. No one will be permitted on the floor except graduates and commencement personnel.
- **A photograph will be taken of each graduate** as he/she receives a diploma. Proofs will be mailed to parents within 10 days of commencement, and orders can be made by mail. Proofs will also be available for viewing and purchased online at www.lifetouchspecialevents.com .

DIRECTIONS/PARKING/ACCESSIBLE AMENITIES

Directions

Via Interstate 71

1. From Interstate 71 north, take Exit 5 for Dana Avenue/Montgomery Road. Follow signage to Xavier University.
2. From Dana Avenue, turn right onto Montgomery Road.
3. Turn left onto Cleneay Avenue. Entrance to the parking lot is .3 miles on the right.

Via Interstate 75 South

1. From Interstate 75 south, take Exit 7 for State Route 562 east.
2. Use Exit 2 for U.S. Route 42/Reading Road and turn right at the end of the ramp.
3. Turn left at the third traffic signal for Victory Parkway.
4. Turn left at Dana Avenue and turn left at the first traffic signal for St. Francis Xavier Way.
5. Follow to Herald Avenue. Turn right, and then left .1 mile to the entrance to the Cintas Center.

Parking Instructions

The Cintas Center features 2,150 spaces around the building with another 1,200 spaces within a short walking distance.

Accessible parking

Parking is available to guests with disabilities with the appropriate hangtag or license plate on a first-come, first-served basis. There are 30 marked handicap spaces in the lots surrounding the Cintas Center. Additional spaces are close to the main (south) entrance and do not involve stairs for access to the building. These spaces are clearly marked with signage that has the international disability symbol and the phrase “event only.”

Accessible Seating

Entry to the accessible seating area is available at gate 8A on the east concourse (via switchback ramp) or at gate 7 on the west concourse (via wheelchair lift).

IMPORTANT DATES

Monday, April 26	Cap and Gown Distribution, during lunch (if fees and fines are paid)
Monday, May 3	Fee & Fine Payment Deadline
Friday, May 14	Seniors' Last Academic Day
Monday, May 17	Parade of Graduates – Bus will pick up @ 9:30, arrives at elementary school @ 10:00. Busses will return to West about 11:30. (Rain date Tuesday, May 18)
Wednesday, May 19	Commencement Rehearsal - 9:00 a.m. (A-L) and 1:00 p.m. (M-Z) Lakota West Gymnasium Senior Activity Day @ 10:30 a.m.
Friday, May 21	Commencement – 5:00 p.m. (A-L) and 8:00 p.m. (M-Z) Cintas Center, Xavier University
Friday, May 21	Gown Return (after Graduation)

IMPORTANT GRADUATION INFORMATION

Caps and gowns will be distributed during lunch on Monday, April 26.

Our graduates use gowns that have been custom made exclusively for Lakota West. These gowns are rented. However, graduates will be able to keep their cap, tassel, and medallion.

- Diplomas will not be given to the graduate until gowns have been returned. Students ***must*** return their gown at the conclusion of the Commencement Program (at the Cintas Center staging area.)
- **All pictures with cap and gowns need to be taken before the ceremony. Gowns are turned in immediately after the ceremony.** Only graduates and school personnel are permitted in the graduate holding area of the Cintas Center before and after the ceremony.

Honors' sashes and medallions received from Lakota West High School may be worn on graduation. The gown may not be altered in any way; the cap can be altered for fitting purposes only.

MISCELLANEOUS

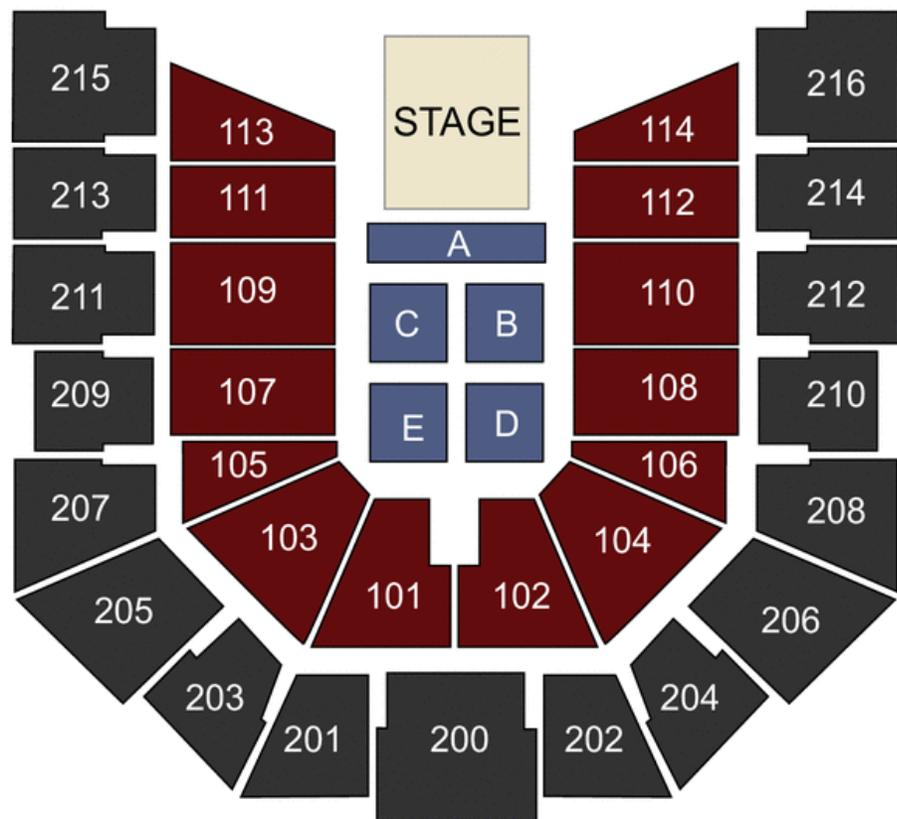
- *Any senior who disrupts or contributes in any way to the disruption of the normal school operation during the final days of the school year will be subject to disciplinary action including being denied participation in commencement on May 21.*
- *Xavier University police will promptly remove any graduate participating in or contributing to inappropriate behavior during commencement from the arena, with the possibility of legal action being pursued.*
- Xavier University has implemented to increase the safety and security of visitors to the Cintas Center. Everyone entering the arena for our graduation ceremony will pass through metal detectors and all bags brought in will be searched. **Clear Bag Policy** - Cintas Center has a clear bag policy for all patrons. For a list of prohibited and approved bags, please visit www.GoXavier.com/ClearBag
- Any graduate choosing not to participate in commencement should let his/her counselor know no later than **May 3rd**, so the seating arrangements can be finalized. Diplomas for students not attending commencement may be picked up at the high school on Monday, May 24. No diplomas will be issued before May 21.
- Please email Mrs. Wainscott or Mrs. Smith in our Counseling Department a copy of any scholarship that you were offered (even those offered to you from schools you have decided not to attend). You can take a picture of the offer letter or scan and send us the documents.

Last names:

A - Ji ... Please email Mrs. Wainscott at karen.wainscott@lakotaonline.com

Jj - Z ... Please email Mrs. Smith at judith.smith@lakotaonline.com

This will help update the profile of the Class of 2021.





Congratulations

to the Class of 2021

From the Lakota West Staff