

Dear Class of 2019,

We are very proud of every one of you. This spring semester we hope you will enjoy your time with your friends, family, and teachers while maintaining high academic performance. We hope you will have fond memories of CATA and of all the people here. Congratulations on making it to this point in your academic career. We would like to provide you some updated information for of your senior year. We ask that you review the entire letter with your family. We are excited about the remainder of your senior year and want to be sure you know all necessary information and expectations.

Graduation: The ceremony is on Sunday, June 9, 2019 at 2:00 PM at the Winthrop Coliseum (1162 Eden Terrace Rock Hill, SC 29733). Please arrive no later than 1:00 to line up. Please be aware of traffic and plan accordingly to arrive on time. A map and directions will be provided for you on a later date. If you have any questions or need directions, then please visit the website (www.winthrop.edu).

Graduation Practice: Practice is on Thursday, June 6, 2019 from 2:00-4:00 PM in the gym. Please arrive no later than 1:45 PM. Please be aware that we must begin at 2:00. Please make sure to make plans to attend the entire practice. Failure to do so will result in not walking at graduation. It is your responsibility to schedule any college functions and work schedules around final exams, graduation practice, and graduation itself. You do not have to wear your cap and gown to practice. If you are speaking at graduation, then you should bring a copy of your speech so you can practice it a couple of times. You will not receive your tickets until the end of practice so make arrangements beforehand.

Attire: Students are expected to dress appropriately and professionally since this is a dignified ceremony. Students at CATA are only permitted to wear CATA issued cords, medallions, and cap and gown. No graduation regalia may be altered in any way.

Ladies: Ladies will need to wear an appropriate dress that is no longer than their gown or dark slacks. There should be no collar showing with the gown. Flip-flops and tennis shoes are not appropriate; however, dressy sandals are appropriate.

Gentlemen: dark pants, a white shirt, black or dark tie or bowtie. No tennis shoes or flip-flops will be allowed. If you have any questions about your attire, then please ask administration.

Senior Cap and Gown Picture: The above described dress code is what you are expected to wear at the senior cap and gown picture on Wednesday, April 17 in the gym. This occurs during second block and you must be present and in appropriate attire to be included in the picture (be here prior to the start of 2nd block if you flex). The Senior Cap and Gown photo will cost \$15.

Senior Week is May 20-24: We will make a separate announcement about the Senior Week Field Trip.

Monday: Academic Signing Day: Medical Science (9:00 to 10:15), Pre-Engineering (10:30 11:45), Performing Arts (12:15 to 1:30), **Tie Dye Shirts**, fourth period café and courtyard (45 minutes at the beginning of the period), **Wear your college Gear**

Tuesday: Academic Signing Day: Transportation Systems (9:00 to 10:00), Information Systems (11:00-12:15), **Field Day**, Fourth Block, **Wear your college Gear**

Wednesday: Reality of Money, First and Second Block

Thursday: Senior Breakfast (PTSO) and Crown Making, First Block in the Café, **Toga and Crowns Day**

Friday: Senior Trip to the Whitewater Center in Charlotte, All Day (Information will go out separately for the trip)

Senior Academic Signings: Each academy will continue with the tradition of seniors signing for their plans for college, military, or career. The signings will be on May 20-21 and all grade levels in that academy will attend their Academy Signings. Signings will also include scholarship recognitions, Academy and Department Awards as warranted. Parents of those receiving awards will be invited to attend, but all academy senior parents are welcome.

Graduation Speeches: Each academy has one senior speak at graduation. A committee of the faculty and staff of Central Academy choose the individuals for graduation speeches. Students may audition for consideration to this committee on **Wednesday, May 1 or Thursday, May 2** starting at 3:45 in the media center conference room. Please pay attention to the announcements for information on how to register to audition on May 1 and 2.

Past due fees: Past due fees must be paid before students may participate in Prom or Graduation. Please make online technology payments through the Central Academy Website, and make all other payments at the school with the bookkeeper. Dr. Wall and other staff will be calling about past due fees in an attempt to settle all fees by the end of April. Students will not receive graduation packets, which include tickets if past due fees are not paid. Any unpaid fee owed to the school or school system must be paid by Wednesday, June 5 to be allowed to participate in a graduation ceremony. We are contacting parents and want to try to resolve fee issues as quickly as possible.

Tickets: Tickets will be on sale beginning **May 6– June 5** before/after school in the main office, and will be available to be purchased online on the school website: Each senior will receive four (4) free tickets with the opportunity to buy extra tickets at \$10.00 a ticket. Students can pre-purchase as many tickets as they need (go to the CATA website, click on “Event Tickets” on the right tab starting May 6).

Tickets will also be sold at the door for \$10 per ticket before the graduation ceremony.

Everyone (including children) must have a ticket to enter the arena.

Students will not receive their tickets until the end of Graduation practice.

Students owing fees will not receive tickets until fees are paid (see below).

Please keep your receipt for the tickets in case there are any questions.

Students can pay cash/check to pay for the tickets, or order online as shown above.

Graduating from high school is dependent upon earning the number and type of credits needed to earn a diploma. Participating in the graduation ceremony is a privilege, one that your family will truly value as they have spent a lot of time supporting you in your academic studies.

Extra Information about graduation day:

- Graduates must park at the back of the coliseum – this will be designated on the directions you receive and signs will be up at the coliseum. Guests must park at the front of the coliseum. If any of your guests a handicap accessible entrance at the front of the coliseum – cars can drive up to this entrance to drop their guest off and CATA staff will assist them in getting into the coliseum while the driver parks the car.
- Winthrop Coliseum will have police officers and security at the graduation event. Please remind your guests that no noisemakers are permitted in the coliseum. The officers represent Winthrop and will enforce the Winthrop rules. Guests to the ceremony should plan on arriving 30 minutes to an hour in advance to allow for traffic. Winthrop will close the doors to the coliseum once the graduation ceremony begins, so all guests need to be in place prior to the 6:00 start time.
- Students should not bring any valuables with them, including phones, into the coliseum, as there will be no place for them to store valuables. Please leave them with your parents.
- A professional photographer will take pictures of the graduates receiving their diploma. Students will receive information on how to order the pictures in their Senior Envelope that they get after the ceremony. Only graduates and staff are permitted on the arena floor.
- At the end of the graduation ceremony all seniors will proceed out of the coliseum and will use the coliseum tunnel to exit at the back of the coliseum, where they will receive their actual diploma, final transcript, picture information, and other important items. An official transcript in a sealed envelope will be in the packet. It is YOUR responsibility to mail it to your college. It is REQUIRED by your college for admission. **Please make plans to meet your families by walking around the outside of the coliseum toward the front. There are plenty of places to take pictures outside of the arena. Guests and graduates will not be able to stay inside the coliseum for pictures.**

Ms. Vicki Merritt, Principal