



Tigers

# Conroe High School

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Dear Graduate and Guests:

*Graduates:* Congratulations! You have accomplished great things over the last four years and have reached your goal of graduation. We have seen you grow tremendously during your high school years and know you are ready to take that next step in your life. It is hard to believe that the school year is almost over and you will be graduating from Conroe High School. Soon, you will be walking across the stage to receive your diploma and celebrate this great accomplishment. Your dedication to education, extra-curricular activities, and CHS will be honored and celebrated at the Commencement Ceremony at Woodforest Bank Stadium on Thursday, June 4th, at 8 a.m. (students with last names that begin with A-K) or 8 p.m. (students with last names that begin with L-Z). In order to have a successful and safe graduation, we would like to communicate information regarding the expectations and process for graduation.

I ask that everyone please remember the current situation we are all under. It is a very stressful time for everyone so I ask that you please be patient and cooperative with other guests and the staff working graduation. The staff is charged with making sure that we follow the guidelines that are set by the Governor of Texas and the Commissioner of Education. I know that our Conroe Tiger Family will be the example for all schools. I thank you in advance for your cooperation and patience.

## **SOCIAL DISTANCING AND SAFETY PRECAUTIONS AT GRADUATION**

In order for Conroe ISD and Conroe High School to have a face-to-face graduation, we must follow the guidelines provided by the Governor of Texas, the Texas Education Agency, Montgomery County officials, and the Department of State Health Services. The guidelines for graduation are clear; we must practice social distancing and take precautions to avoid the spread of COVID-19.

Following are the expectations for all guests and graduates attending one of the graduation ceremonies:

1. **Screening:** Prior to arriving at the stadium, all guests and graduates should self-screen and be able to answer 'no' to each area below (Please know that stadium staff will ask)
  - a. cough
  - b. shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
  - c. chills
  - d. repeated shaking with chills
  - e. muscle pain
  - f. headache
  - g. sore throat
  - h. loss of taste or smell
  - i. diarrhea
  - j. feeling feverish or a temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
  - k. known close contact with a person who is lab confirmed to have COVID-19 if exposure to the active confirmed case occurred within last 14 days

2. Seating: Seating has been assigned to meet the guidelines for social distancing. Each graduate will receive four (4) tickets for family and guests. There will be four (4) seats between family groups on the same row and one empty row in front of and behind each family group. Graduates will have 6 feet of space on all sides of their chair. All graduates and guests must sit in their assigned seats once they arrive at the stadium. We ask that everyone respect the space of others and not get closer than 6 feet to those outside of their immediate family/guest group. School and District personnel will be working as ushers in the stands to help guests find their seats and maintain social distancing. If you have a concern or issue with another guest, please see one of the ushers to help.
3. Handicapped Seating – If you have a guest that needs handicapped seating or is unable to climb the stairs, please see a staff member and they will assist you to an appropriate seat.
4. Entering the Stadium: All guests and graduates will be asked if they self-screened prior to arrival using the criteria above. Guests and graduates should enter the stadium through the gate that matches the color on their ticket and maintain a minimum of 6 feet between their family group and other guest groups. After entering the stadium, please find your seat immediately and remain there until the ceremony is over. Anyone needing to use the restroom or purchase water will be directed to the closest location.
5. Exiting the Stadium: Guests and graduates will be dismissed by sections and rows at the conclusion of the ceremony to promote social distancing. Please listen to the announcements made over the speakers and follow the directions of your ushers. Once dismissed, please exit through your assigned gate to your vehicle while maintaining a minimum of 6 feet from other family groups. Graduates will be expected to leave the stadium and meet you at the car.

### **PARKING, ENTRANCE GATES, GUEST GROUP SEATING**

All parking areas, gates, and seating are color coded to help balance the attendance load into and out of the stadium to promote social distancing. Guests must park, enter, and sit in the areas designated by their ticket color. Please remember to follow social distancing guidelines during this time and please keep at least 6 feet from other guest groups. In some instances, the graduate's ticket may be a color other than the color assigned to their family group. If this occurs, the color of the family/guest group tickets should be used to determine parking and gate entry. Field entry areas will be marked for graduate seating.

### **GRADUATE ENTRANCE TO THE FIELD**

Graduates will be given their seating assignments when they pick up their tickets. Graduates will need to report directly to their seats on the field. Personnel will be available to remind graduates of their seat assignments. Once seated, graduates will need to put on their CHS medallion and remove their index card from their seat. The index card will be the card graduates will use for the name caller by the stage, therefore it is vital that you do not lose it. The index card is the graduates' ticket to go across the stage. At all times, students must practice social distancing and keep at least 6 feet between themselves and other graduates.

## **DRESS FOR GRADUATION**

It is recommended that female graduates wear a dress or slacks, a nice blouse, and flat-soled shoes. (No heels as it is very difficult to walk on the turf when wearing them.) It is recommended that male graduates wear slacks, a nice shirt, and dress shoes. If the temperature is forecast to be greater than 92 degrees during one of the ceremonies, it is recommended that graduates wear shorts under their gown.

All guest groups are asked to dress in an appropriate manner for the occasion and the weather.

## **ITEMS PERMITTED AT GRADUATION**

Please limit what you bring into the stadium. If you bring a small purse/car keys/camera, you will be fine. Bleacher seats (17" wide and 13" deep max) or cushions are also permitted. The following items are ***NOT*** permitted in the stadium: weapons of any kind, tobacco, illegal drugs, alcohol, signs/fat heads, umbrellas, balloons, noise makers, any other item that may be disruptive or deemed dangerous.

## **WATER**

The stadium will be selling water in each color area for guests. All graduates will be provided water on the field.

## **ARRIVAL TIMES**

The pre-graduation program will start approximately 20 minutes prior to the designated start time. All graduates are asked to arrive by 7:15 AM/PM to ensure they are seated by 7:30 AM/PM. All guests are asked to be seated by 7:45 AM/PM. The ceremony will begin promptly at 8 AM/PM.

## **TICKETS**

All graduates will pick-up a graduation ticket packet from our school prior to graduation. The date for ticket pick-up will be June 1<sup>st</sup> from 10am-12pm and 4pm – 6pm at CHS! In the packet, you will receive 1 graduate ticket and 4 guest tickets (color area, parking area color, gate color, section color, row and seat). If you have a toddler, you may bring them to the ceremony without a ticket, however, they will be required to sit in your lap once you arrive at your seats and until the end of the ceremony. Please do not let them play or roam down the row in front, beside, or behind your seats. ***Please make sure that you have the tickets as there will not be any admittance to the ceremonies without a ticket.*** Please know that all 4 guests for a specific graduate must sit in the assigned seats for that graduate. Having members of another graduate's group sit with you may put you, your family, and the other family's health in jeopardy. Therefore, if you have extra tickets, sharing with someone outside of your household is not recommended. In some instances, the graduate's ticket may be a color other than the color assigned to their family group. If this occurs, the color of the family/guest group tickets should be used to determine parking.

## **CEREMONY**

The ceremony is expected to last approximately one hour and thirty minutes. A large portion of the program will be pre-recorded so that both ceremonies are similar and the sound and quality is at its best. The front of the stage for the graduates will be around the 15-yard line in front of

the scoreboard. Each graduate will appear on the scoreboard as they cross the stage. A photographer will take their picture as they cross and after they leave the stage. Flash photography will email you information regarding access to the pictures. You are more than welcome to take pictures of your graduate from your seat but no one is allowed to be at the railing area during graduation.

### **GRADUATE BEHAVIOR**

Please remember that the graduation ceremony is a very special and fun, yet, formal and dignified occasion. We expect all participants and guests to conduct themselves in a positive and appropriate manner. Please understand that all graduates and their families deserve to hear each graduate's name and celebrate this accomplishment with them. Please do not create a distraction that would diminish this event or take away from any one graduate.

### **GRADUATION CAPS**

CHS Class of 2020 will be allowed to decorate their graduation caps. Please take into consideration the following rules when decorating your graduation cap. Failure to follow these rules will result in the removal of the cap before the ceremony.

Graduation cap decorations:

- Cannot contain any advertisement, symbols, abbreviations, initials, words, slogans, patches, or pictures that: Refer to drugs or controlled substances, tobacco, alcohol, or weapons or be of a sexual nature.
- Cannot denote an affiliation with gangs or which advocate drug use, violence, illegal activity, or disruptive behavior which is detrimental to the safety and welfare of other students.
- Cannot be obscene, profane, vulgar, or lewd.
- Cannot include numbers other than the graduation year.
- Cannot threaten the safety and welfare of any person.
- Cannot make noise. No bells, horns, or anything that makes noise.
- Only the flat, top area of the cap may be decorated. There may be nothing hanging down from any of the sides of the cap.
- Decorations must be flat on the surface, 3-D creations are prohibited. - No blinking lights; no moving parts; nothing battery operated.
- No glitter allowed.

*It is appropriate to put the following on your cap:*

- Thank a parent, grandparent, teacher, friend
- Recognize the university you will be attending
- your graduation year
- the branch of the military you will be joining

Students, we highly suggest you trace your cap onto cardboard and decorate the cardboard. In case you make a mistake, you can start over with a new piece of cardboard. We will not furnish new caps if you mess yours up decorating. After you decorate it, stick it to your cap with double-

sided tape or Velcro stickers. Velcro tape can be purchased at any fabric store, Target, Wal-Mart and throughout many CVS and Walgreens stores.

**Administration will reserve the right to disallow anything that is not considered appropriate for commencement ceremony.**

**FINES, BOOKS, EQUIPMENT, UNIFORMS, AND FEES** All seniors must ensure all text books, library books, equipment/uniforms have been returned and all fees/fines have been cleared. Any senior who has failed to complete these tasks will not be allowed to participate in the Graduation Ceremony, and their diploma will not be released until the items have been cleared. All fines, equipment/uniforms, books, and fees must be paid prior to 2 p.m. on Thursday, May 28th.

### **MASK AND FACE COVERINGS**

*"Should our family wear masks to the graduation?"*

Yes. We encourage and request all visitors to our graduation ceremonies to wear a mask or face covering to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. The District wants to honor graduates and their families while doing everything we can to keep them and our staff safe. Wearing a mask or face covering and maintaining social distance are important parts of the Governor's Open Texas Plan.

*"Suppose I get hot and need to take off my mask to breathe?"*

We understand that this is an outdoor ceremony and wearing a mask throughout the ceremony may become uncomfortable. While there is no penalty for removing one's mask, it is important to not cough or sneeze on those around you. At a minimum masks should be worn when walking to and from your seat and in the concourse, common, or restroom areas.

This is such an exciting time and again I am so thankful for our Superintendent, Dr. Curtis Null and all of the CISD Administration for their hard work and efforts in making graduation a priority for the Class of 2020! If you have any questions, let me know! I look forward to seeing you all soon!

Sincerely,



~Dr. Rotasha Smith