

To the parents of Banks County High School's graduating class of 2021:

I know that this is a very exciting time for all of you. We always think of graduation as a landmark event for the students, but in truth it is a grand event for everyone involved. Please make sure that all academic requirements are fulfilled; all required courses must be passed for students to participate in the graduation ceremony. Here is some much needed information about the events surrounding graduation.

Thank you,
April Loggins, School Counselor

Special Events

In past years, senior parents have coordinated a hall decorating event with senior posters. If parents would like to again coordinate this event, the school will be open on May 13th from 3:30 – 4:30PM. The hallway leading to the cafeteria and fine arts classrooms will be the designated hallway. Please bring your own supplies and decorations for this event.

Senior Celebrations

Senior Celebrations is an activity sponsored by the Beta Club and will be held on Thursday, May 20th. A reception will be at 6:00PM in the cafeteria with the ceremony following at 6:30PM in the auditorium. Invitations will be given to those students that will be recognized. Please contact the Beta Club sponsors, Mr. Alan Hayes, Ms. Tracy Howe or Dr. Summer Smith with any questions regarding this event.

Dates for Final Remediation

May 19th and 20th will be for remediation. Students that have an average below 80 with no missing assignments are required to attend these days to complete remediation activities. Students that have an 80 or above, but who would like to improve their grades are also encouraged to attend. All other students may complete the remediation exemption form to be considered for exemption from these school days.

Yearbook Presentation

May 21 - The yearbook staff will present the yearbooks and students will be given time for signing each other's yearbooks. Times will be announced in the near future.

Owed Fees

Fees may include, but are not limited to, lunchroom balances, library books, textbooks, JROTC and/or sports uniforms, Chrome Books, and transcripts. Fees owed should be cleared by **Friday, May 21st**. Cash, money orders, or missing items are accepted to clear debt owed.

Final Transcripts

If your BCHS senior is going to College or Technical College, the college will need his/her final transcript. The schools of choice have only tentatively accepted them. Without this final transcript showing a date of graduation and all classes completed, he/she cannot be officially accepted. In addition, the NCAA Clearinghouse and NAIA will need copies of final transcripts for those seniors planning to participate in Division I or II athletics at a college level. Seniors are provided with one final official transcript at no cost; any additional final transcripts are \$3.00 each. A Google Form will be sent to student email accounts on May 12th during advisement at which time seniors are encouraged to request these final transcripts. Students should sign up now to keep from forgetting it later! Final transcripts will not be mailed or available for pick up until June 7th. Upon graduation, only the graduate can request a copy of a transcript; legally we are no longer able to accept requests from parents. For questions regarding transcripts, please contact Kelly Patterson, registrar at 706-677-4750 or kpatterson@banks.k12.ga.us

Graduation Practices - All Practices Are Mandatory!

May 26: 7:40 AM – Arrive at the gym (You need to wear your clothes that you plan to wear at graduation along with your cap & gown. Required dress is mandatory!)

May 26: 8:00 AM – Load buses for graduation parade at other schools in district

May 26: 9:00AM – 10:00AM – Graduation Pictures and Breakfast

May 26: 10:00AM – 11:30AM – Outside Practice

May 26: 11:30AM – 12:00PM – Kona Ice

May 26: 11:30AM – 12:00PM – Valedictorian, Salutatorian, and First Honorarian speech rehearsal

May 27: 8:30AM – 10:30AM – Conditional outside practice – If student behavior is acceptable during rehearsal on May 26, and are well rehearsed; they will not have to attend this additional practice.

Graduation Pictures

Representatives from Crump Photo will be here on **May 26th** to take individual cap & gown pictures as well as a class photo. Students must be in their cap & gowns to participate in practice and pictures. These photos will be taken upon our return from the graduation parade at the other schools. Payment is due on portrait day in the form of cash, check, or credit card. Order forms are available in the front office. You may contact Randy Crump at 706-499-4898 with any questions. After the class photo, students may change out of their caps and gowns and into **school appropriate clothing**. Sunscreen is also highly encouraged, as we will be practicing outside for an extended period of time. The Georgia National Guard will provide water and breakfast to students during this time.

Graduation

May 28: All graduates must report to the auditorium dressed in graduation attire by 7:00PM. In the event of rain, we'll look at best options which could include it being on Saturday.

There is no reserved seating permitted in the stadium, and the gates will open at 6:00PM.

Required Dress

Graduation is a formal event. Guidelines have been established for those wishing to decorate the graduation cap. Please refer to the Graduation Cap Decoration Guidelines handout for more information.

Students will wear either a white collared shirt, a blue or black tie, dark colored dress pants, and dark colored socks, OR a dark dress that is no longer than their robe. Graduates are to wear dark dress shoes. **No shorts, flip-flops or casual sandals!** Remember that we may be on the field so high heels may be problematic. **Students are to keep shoes on during the entire graduation ceremony!**

Students are to bring NOTHING to the auditorium at 7:00 PM on graduation night, except their caps and gowns. They will not need purses, phones, cameras, or tubs of styling products. No gum allowed!

If your graduate does not follow these simple guidelines, they will be pulled from the graduation line. Please do not allow them to put themselves in this situation.

Days Off

May 24th and May 25th are days when graduates do not need to be on campus. Depending on the success of the graduation practice on May 26th, students will also not need to be on campus **May 27th**. These are days for our last minute preparations for graduation and finishing up the school year for the underclassmen. Graduates should not show up on these days. They will not be allowed to eat lunch with the underclassmen or roam the halls. **They will not be allowed past the office!**

Diplomas

Diplomas will be issued to graduates during the ceremony. Graduates that do not participate in the graduation ceremony may pick their diplomas up in the counseling office on Tuesday, June 1st or during summer office hours.