



## Parent to Parent: Tips for Graduation

**“Experienced PTSA Parents” have developed the following list of tips for parents preparing for the myriad of graduation related activities. These recommendations do not necessarily reflect the position of CKHS administration or CKHS PTSA.**

### Planning:

There is a lot happening so be sure to watch for E-news and check the school calendar <http://ckhs.cksd.wednet.edu/calendar/calendar.htm> regularly for all of the year end activities e.g.– Senior Awards Night, Baccalaureate, club banquets, concerts, play-offs and team dinners, Senior Breakfast and Commencement rehearsals. Note: Some of these events *are* mandatory.

Consider co-hosting celebrations to avoid obvious conflicts. Celebrating a college choice once that is made, or hosting a send-off are other options.

Even if there is extended family visiting, seniors want to have time with their friends. Try to balance family and friend time and discuss in advance if possible.

Some families find that attending a year end event, other than Commencement, is easier for some grandparents etc. and helps with the limited number of tickets. You could get together later to watch the DVD or webcast.

Try to enjoy the many senior events with your student and not stress too much. There is so much focus on the graduate, which can be challenging for siblings. Consider whether the “non-graduating siblings” need to attend every event.

### Commencement Tickets:

Talk with other families if you need additional tickets for Commencement. There are only a limited number of tickets and you *must have a ticket to enter*.

Every year people have confused the graduation announcement with tickets; please make sure your friends know they need a separate ticket to attend Commencement.

Staff members using a staff ticket must show picture ID along with the ticket which has their name on it.

All children over 2 years old must have a ticket.

There is “handicapped seating” available- however, only one other family member or friend can sit with the disabled person and each must have a ticket. You may use the side entrance for this seating.

### Before the Ceremony:

Take some pictures of the family and graduate in his or her cap and gown before Commencement to be sure you get the pictures you want. It will be hectic after the ceremony.

Give the student any leis or flowers before they leave for the Pavilion or save them for after the ceremony. Items should not be taken to the students getting ready in the Presidents’ Hall.

Some families recommend you eat before you go, while others suggest that you join with other families to go out to dinner, while the graduates head to Grad Night.

Commencement:

Dress in layers for Graduation as it can be too warm in some areas of the Pavilion and too cool in others, all in one evening.

There will be a lot of traffic heading to and from the Pavilion; allow extra time.

Large signs, noisemakers and balloons are *not* allowed in the seating area at Commencement. There will be a “Balloon Check” available and you can pick them up after the ceremony, or you may find it easier to leave them in your car or at home.

When the doors open, *all* of them will open, and you may enter through all doors.

Ask your students if they are entering on the “flag or balcony side”, and if they are at the beginning, middle or end of the procession. This will help you choose seats, know on which side they are receiving their diploma, and where to look for them.

Bring cash- candy leis and water bottles are available for sale while supplies last.

You must give up your ticket to enter. You may pick up tickets for souvenirs when you exit the main doors after the ceremony. You might want to designate one person to pick up some tickets afterwards while others go out to meet the graduates. Extra tickets will be available in the Main Office the week after graduation.

Thanks to a suggestion by a PTSA member, **there will be a webcast of the Commencement this year!** The address will be posted on our website as soon as it is known; the webcast will be available for a week after Graduation.

So that guests can hear all the names as they are being announced, please *do not cheer* for students. Anyone causing a disruption may be asked to leave.

Professional video and photos will be available for sale.

After the Ceremony:

Set a place to meet after the ceremony. There are a lot of people and it may be hard to find your student in the sea of black gowns!

Diplomas are distributed in Presidents Hall. The student or parent must sign for the diploma. Decide in advance who will pick up the diploma.

The busses for Grad Night will leave directly from the Pavilion/Presidents’ Hall area. Last minute tickets are usually available at a table near the busses.

Visit the PTSA website [www.ckhsptsa.org](http://www.ckhsptsa.org) for registration forms and information.

It is nice to take a moment and remember how blessed you are to have the privilege of doing all of these special things with your graduate.

Cherish the memories, as all too soon summer ends and they are off to .....

As they leave for jobs, school, the service....

Get unlimited texting!

Set up Skype!

**CKHS PTSA would like to extend our Congratulations and Best Wishes to all our graduates and their families. It’s been a privilege to work with you.**