

Pickens High School Class of 2023 Graduation Information

Event	Date/Time/Information
Senior Honor Night	5/10/2023 at 6pm in the PAC. Invitations are sent out.
PHS Walk-Through	5/18/23 at 2:15pm – Seniors will wear their caps and gowns and do a senior walk-through at PHS.
Yearbook Presentation	5/19/2023 – 8:00 a.m. – PHS (PAC).
Last Day of School for Seniors	5/19/2023 – Last day for Seniors who are in good academic standing.
A Good Day to be a Dragon Field Day	5/22/2023 – 9-11am Varsity Athletic Field Competitions 11am-1:30pm Dragons of Distinction Activities
Elementary/JMS/PJHS Walk-Through	5/24/2023 – 8:00 a.m. – Report to the PAC at PHS and then the buses leave from PHS.
MANDATORY Graduation Practice	5/24/2023 – 10:00 a.m. – Report to New Gym.
MANDATORY Graduation Practice – *Rain Date*	5/25/2023 – 8:00 a.m. – If the 5/24/23 Mandatory Graduation Practice is cancelled due to rain, then this practice session will become mandatory. Report to New Gym at 8am.
Baccalaureate Service	5/25/2023 – 6:00 p.m. – First Baptist Church of Jasper.
Report for Graduation	5/26/2023 – 4:30 p.m. - Report to PHS Gym (New).
Class of 2023 Class Picture	5/26/2023 - 5:00 p.m. – New Gym – Be dressed & ready.
March to Stadium	5/26/2023 – 6:30 p.m. – Line up for March to Stadium.
2023 Commencement Ceremony	5/26/2023 – 7:00 p.m. – Dragon Stadium.

Senior Honor Night: The senior honor night will take place on Wednesday, 5/10/23, at 6pm in the PAC at PHS. Invitations are sent out to students who will be receiving their honor graduate medal and/or other awards that night. Many local scholarships are awarded and recognized at this event.

PHS Senior Walk-Through: Seniors will wear their caps and gowns and do a senior walk-through at PHS on Thursday, 5/18. Seniors will meet in the old gym at 2:10pm.

Yearbook Presentation: Senior Class Yearbook Presentation will take place in the PAC.

Last Day of School: Seniors who have completed all required work and are passing their classes will not be required to attend the last week of school (5/22-5/25).

A Good Day to be a Dragon Field Day: On Monday, 5/22, there will be an all-day field day event at the football stadium. From 9-11am there will be Varsity Athletic Field Competitions in which there will be a pre-registration process including team fees required in order to participate. The Dragons of Distinction activities will be from 11am-1:30pm; for these activities student must be on track to graduate, have a minimum of an 80 in all spring classes, not have been ISS or OSS all year, and completed all required tasks for graduation.

Elementary/JMS/PJHS Walk-Throughs: On Wednesday, 5/24, the graduates will meet in the PAC at 8am. The graduates are given the opportunity to walk through the schools in our district with their cap and gown. This is opportunity is **optional**. Please know that this is a great chance to be recognized by former teachers and future PHS students. Participating students should wear their cap and gown.

MANDATORY Graduation Practice: The mandatory graduation practice will be on Wednesday, 5/24, following the school walk-throughs. **Seniors who do not attend this practice will not participate in the ceremony.** All graduates must be in the new gym by 10am for the mandatory graduation practice (after we return from the school walk-throughs). This gives our graduating seniors the opportunity to walk through the details of the ceremony in the venue(s) where it will take place. We will practice in the stadium, as well as in the Gym. A rain day has been set for the following morning (5/25) should this practice not take place. Please make sure that you are available for both days, in the event of rain. Students do not have to wear their cap and/or gown to the practice. It is recommended that they wear the shoes they plan to graduate in.

Chromebooks: All school issued Chromebooks and their parts (charger, etc.) must be turned in before a student can graduate. Seniors will be able to turn their Chromebooks in to Mr. Lo in the PAC and/or the new gym on 5/24 before the school walk-throughs and the outside graduation practice. Chromebooks can ONLY be turned in to Mr. Lo and will only be turned in on 5/24 (no Chromebooks can be turned in on the day of graduation). Please know that the following prices will apply for anything that is broken and/or missing: \$10 for missing chargers, \$40 for broken screens, \$25 for broken keyboards, and \$180 for missing Chromebooks.

Baccalaureate Service: This non-denominational and faith-based church service is held to honor our graduates and send them off with a message of hope and inspiration as they embark on the next chapter of their lives. This event is optional for students, families, staff, and the community to attend.

Other Important Graduation Information:

Parking Passes: Everyone entering Dragon Drive on May 26th must have a parking pass (including graduates). Each graduate will be given **3 parking passes** and **6 graduation tickets** (to be used in case the ceremony is moved indoors) on the day of graduation practice (May 24th). Please know that all patrons parking in a handicap spot must also use one of the three parking passes from their graduate (handicap permits do not count as an individual parking pass). The PHS campus will open at 4:30 p.m. on May 26th. More information regarding parking on campus, parking at other locations, and shuttle options from other parking locations will be made public closer to graduation. Please plan to carpool and use shuttles as much as possible.

Graduation Day: Report to the PHS New Gym/PAC entry (if outdoors) by 4:30 p.m. We will be taking the group graduation photo at 5:00 p.m. We would like for all graduates to be dressed and ready by 4:45 p.m. for this photo. **Please do not be late.** It will be extremely difficult to get onto Dragon Drive if you do not plan to get here early. We would like to include every graduate in the photo, if possible.

Cap, Gown and Tassel: Students **must** wear the official green cap, gown, and tassel distributed through Jostens, our provider for graduation items. They **cannot** substitute a different tassel or add an additional tassel to their cap for this ceremony. They **cannot** decorate or alter in any way their cap, gown, nor tassel. The “Diamond P” patch will be added to each student’s gown upon arrival the day of graduation and will be part of each student’s attire during this ceremony.

Expectations of Attire Under Gown: Each student is expected to wear either 1) a dress or 2) a white dress shirt (preferably with a dark tie) and slacks underneath the gown. If slacks are worn, then a dark color (black, dark gray, or navy) with dark dress shoes and socks are preferred. If wearing a dress, then dress shoes (high heels are not recommended) or sandals can be worn. Athletic/tennis shoes, flip-flops, Crocs, etc., are not acceptable. Dark boots are allowed to be worn. Please do your part to look sharp for this event. If students need assistance in obtaining these items, then they should reach out to their counselor (preferably before 5/20). We will make sure we do our best to provide these items for any who need assistance.

Diplomas: Graduates will receive their green diploma cover during the ceremony and their official diploma after the ceremony concludes. After the ceremony, graduates will go to the concession stand on the visitor’s side of the football field to retrieve their official diploma from the PHS staff members who are handing them out. All graduation requirements must be met in order for graduates to receive their official diplomas on graduation night and place the official diploma in the green diploma cover that the graduates received during the graduation ceremony.

Behavior Expectations: Each student is expected to exhibit and maintain good conduct and behavior before, during, and after the commencement ceremony. Significant discipline issues on or off campus prior to the ceremony can affect their participation.

Guests and Graduate Expectations:

- Artificial noise makers (air horns, cowbells, megaphones, bull horns, etc.) and/or signs are distracting and thus, are not allowed during the ceremony.
- Cheering and clapping are encouraged.
- Any negative comments, booing, or other disrespectful gestures will not be tolerated.
- Pickens High School is a drug, alcohol, tobacco, and vape free campus.
- Pets are not allowed on our campus at any time for any event.

Thank you for your help in adhering to these requirements. We want to ensure a safe and enjoyable event for all in attendance. We are incredibly proud of our graduating seniors!