



# CLASS OF 2026

## GUIDE TO GRADUATION

**LHS ADMINISTRATION:** ROD WATSON- PRINCIPAL  
JACK SMALLEY, ASHLEY TESSMER, KELLY ZYWICKI- ASSOCIATE PRINCIPALS

### PARENTS / GUARDIANS

If you're reading this, you are likely the parent or guardian of senior at LHS. This is an exciting and anxious time for both parents and graduates. This newsletter will share details about the graduation ceremony as well as information about expectations for students and guests.

This year's ceremony, as usual, will be a traditional, formal graduation ceremony. I greatly appreciate the manner by which you will actively support our efforts to make this year's graduation dignified and memorable. The LHS Graduation Ceremony is scheduled for Sunday, May 31st, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. at the WoodTrust Bank Field in SWC Stadium (Rain location - LHS Fieldhouse). Each year, our graduation ceremony draws a tremendous crowd. Because of this, we ask you and your family to consider and observe the following:

There is no reserved seating. Seating for people with disabilities will be available, but is limited to the person with the disability and one other person.

- The ceremony will be livestreamed on the district YouTube channel.
- Parking will be at a premium on the campus of Lincoln High School, along with the spots for people with disabilities.
- All guests will be held to the same expectations and school code as students. Please dress appropriately for a formal ceremony. Also, no air horns, silly string, balloons, or beach balls will be permitted as they disrupt the ceremony.
- Applause or any sign of individual recognition (such as cheering, whooping, etc.) is not only inappropriate, but also rude to others, as it will drown out the name of the next student being read.

I look forward to seeing you at our ceremony. Congratulations and best wishes to the Class of 2026!

- Rod Watson, Principal



### ALL SENIORS

All seniors who plan to participate in this year's ceremony will be attending an informational meeting on Friday, April 17th, 2026 at 8:45 a.m in the PAC. *It is mandatory that seniors who intend to walk at graduation attend this meeting.*



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## SCHOLARSHIP NIGHT

If your child has received any scholarships outside of what we offer at LHS either through the college they are attending, a parent employer, an insurance group, etc., please have your child bring a copy of the scholarship award to Student Services. We want to make sure all students are recognized at Senior Scholarship Night on Wednesday, May 20th at 6:30pm. Please contact Student Services with any questions.

## TRANSCRIPTS

Most seniors will be required to submit a copy of their final transcript to the institution they plan to attend in the fall. Students need to go to [www.parchment.com](http://www.parchment.com) and order their final transcripts for college by selecting "Next Grading Period." This should be done during your third trimester. Please contact Student Services with any questions.

## ORDER CAP/ GOWN

Cap, Gown, and Tassel is to be ordered ONLINE at Jostens.com. Place your order as soon as possible. See specific ordering information in the August Newsletter.

## HONOR CORDS

Honor cords will be distributed on Wednesday, April 15th. Honor cords will be worn by seniors who qualify according to their cumulative grade point through the second trimester of their senior year. Silver cords for 3.00 to 3.49 GPA students and Gold Cords for 3.50 and above GPA students. If your student did not receive a cord, please contact Mrs. Murphy in the main office.

## SCHOOL RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the students' responsibility to make sure that all books and other equipment have been turned in to the respective teacher before graduation.

Any fines, library books, lunch fees or other academic responsibilities must be taken care of by Friday, May 1st.

Any textbooks that students are still using must be turned in to the respective teacher by the end of the day on Thursday, May 28th.

**If there are any obligations not taken care of by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, May 1st your student will not be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony. Please connect with Dr. Watson if this will be an issue and we'll find solutions!**

## LUNCH ACCOUNTS

Please be sure that any money in your child's lunch account is used by the end of the school year. You will be notified if there is a balance left in the student's account. If the student has a sibling in the District, the family can elect to transfer the balance to the sibling's account. Students who qualify for free or reduced priced meals will automatically be given a refund if no siblings are left in the District. Families with students who pay full price can choose to either receive a refund or donate the remaining funds to the Student Meal Donation account if no siblings are left in the district.

## STUDENT VOLUNTEERS

If your student was a volunteer, please remind them to have their hours updated in the Google Form located on the volunteer webpage by Friday, April 24th. Students who have 100 or more hours of service will receive recognition in the graduation program and on their diploma.



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## FAILING CLASSES

All teachers must report seniors who are in danger of failing their classes by Friday, May 8th. If a student cannot prove that they are passing the course, and it is a course required for them to graduate, by the end of the day on Thursday, May 28th at 4:00 p.m., the student will not be allowed to participate in graduation practice or the ceremony. If a teacher indicates on Friday, May 8th that a student will fail the required course for graduation, the student may not be allowed to participate in the graduation practice or ceremony. The student will then be offered an opportunity to attend summer school to complete credits for their diploma.

## LAST DAY FOR SENIORS

Thursday, May 28th is the last day of school for seniors. Senior skip days are inappropriate, so parents please don't authorize this type of absence. Seniors will be held accountable for their attendance in school through their last scheduled day.

## SENIOR PRANKS

Organized senior pranks have become a dangerous and expensive distraction in some districts. LHS does not tolerate senior pranks and will issue consequences to any seniors involved in pranks. Limiting participation at the graduation ceremony could be one of these consequences.

## GRADUATION PRACTICE

This is **mandatory, no excuses**. Students allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony **MUST** practice or they cannot participate in the ceremony. Practice will be held on Friday, May 29th at 10:00 a.m. at WoodTrust Bank Field. Students must arrive on time or they will not be able to practice or be in the graduation ceremony. Report directly to the field and stay there... no one in the halls of the school. Practice usually ends around noon, depending on how smoothly it goes. Students should bring a water bottle to this practice.

## STUDENT BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

Mature, adult behavior from students will be expected during all of the graduation events. Evidence of drinking or use of illegal substances before or during any of these events will eliminate participation in said event. Students who exhibit improper behavior at rehearsal, during the last few weeks of school, or during the ceremony will be removed from participation, and the awarding of their diploma will be delayed until such discipline as assigned is completed.

## NOT PARTICIPATING?

If your student is not participating in the graduation ceremony, they must have a form signed by a parent/guardian and filed with Mrs. Murphy by Tuesday, May 26th. The form is available on our website under Graduation Information.

## CALENDAR FOR SENIORS

May 20th..... Senior Scholarship Night at 6:30 p.m.  
May 28th..... Seniors' Last Day of School  
May 29th..... \*Graduation Rehearsal at 10:00 a.m.  
                  *\*Seniors are required to attend*  
May 29th..... Class Reunion Zero at 7:00 p.m.  
May 31st..... Graduation Day  
                  Seniors Line up at 12:30 p.m.  
                  Commencement at 1:00 p.m.



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## GRADUATION DAY

Sunday, May 31st, 2026, all students need to report by 12:30 p.m. to line up. Parents, please take pictures before 12:15 p.m. or after the ceremony. The ceremony will be livestreamed. You can watch it live on the [WRPS YouTube](#) channel.

## SPECTATORS



The gates will open at 12:00 p.m. Seats may not be reserved ahead of time. Spectators will be required to remain seated. Standing in aisles / passageways will not be allowed for safety reasons so that everyone can enjoy the program without their views being obstructed. Spectator photographs may only be taken from the seats, thus no one will be allowed to leave his or her seat in order to approach the stage for the purpose of taking photos.

## GRADUATES WHAT TO WEAR

Lincoln has a tradition of having dignified graduation ceremonies. Graduates should be well groomed and neatly dressed. Be comfortable so that you do not trip walking. Graduates will be walking on the field across the turf. Since the ceremony will likely be held outside, graduates should dress appropriate for the weather conditions.

### **Please do NOT wear the following**

- The cap and gown is NOT to have any additional adornment. This includes, but is not limited to, wearing of messages, signs, markings, stringers, and ribbons.
- No pins or medals may worn by graduates unless they are recognized graduation medals approved by Lincoln High School administration. This includes, but is not limited to awards, athletics, clubs etc.
- No cords are to be worn by graduates other than the academic honor cords that are distributed on April 17, 2026, the school related cords that are approved by LHS administration, or military cords for those that will be serving.
- No heels are allowed on the turf

**Inability to comply with these simple requests will remove the student from participation in the ceremony.**

## Caps and Gowns

Caps and gowns will be distributed on Friday, April 17th in the PAC. If your student did not receive their cap and gown, please contact Jostens directly at 608-526-2100. Students are responsible for having the cap, gown, and tassel in good condition for Commencement. If they do not have all three, they will not be able to participate. If your student bought a status (bling) tassel, they should wear the SOUVENIR 2026 tassel for graduation. The gowns are made of fragile material, be especially careful with them. Please do not leave the gown folded in the package until right before the ceremony. It is recommended that you hang them in the shower room to steam out wrinkles or iron them on the backside with a lukewarm iron. This is the only gown students will receive.



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## KEEPING CELEBRATIONS SAFE

During graduation season, prevention efforts can help ensure safe, fun and memorable celebrations. Parents who talk to their teens and model appropriate behavior are critical. Pay attention in the local media to the “Parents Who Host Lose the Most” community campaign during the months of April and May to educate yourself and teens about the consequences of underage drinking. For more information about how to talk to your youth about the danger of alcohol and drugs, refer to [www.drugfree.org](http://www.drugfree.org).

## Class Reunion Zero

CRZ is a safe, supervised environment for graduating seniors from LHS to enjoy a night together before they go their separate ways. The party will be held Friday, May 29th from 7:00 - 11:00 p.m. in the LHS Field House. We have a night planned with lots of prizes donated by area businesses, a hypnotist, casino games, other games, and of course lots of food and drinks. Tickets will be sold during lunch periods May 25 - May 28. We are looking for parents to volunteer to help out that night or to support this event with a prize or small monetary donation. Donations will be used for prizes such as a laptop, TV, gift cards as well as for food and entertainment. We appreciate anything you can do to help. Checks can be made out to LHS Class Reunion Zero and dropped off or mailed to the main office. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Miranda Murphy.

### Pupil Non-Discrimination Statement

The School District of Wisconsin Rapids is committed to equal educational opportunity for all District students. The District will not deny any person admission to, participation in, or the benefits of any curricular, extra-curricular, pupil services, recreational or other program or activity because of a person's gender, race, national origin, ancestry, creed, religion, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, transgender status, gender identity, or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability, or any other characteristic protected under State or Federal civil rights laws. Incidents of discrimination or harassment should be reported to a teacher, administrator, supervisor, or other District employee to be addressed or forwarded on to District Compliance Officer Brian Oswald.

### Special Statement Regarding Sex Discrimination Under Title IX

The Board of the School District of Wisconsin Rapids does not discriminate on the basis of sex and prohibits sex discrimination in any education program or activity that it operates, as required by Title IX and its regulations, including in admission and employment. Inquiries about Title IX may be referred to the District's Title IX Coordinator, the U.S.

Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (“OCR”), or both. The District's Title IX Coordinators are:

Steven Hepp, Director of Pupil Services  
School District of Wisconsin Rapids  
510 Peach Street, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494  
P: 715-424-6724  
E: [titleixcoordinator@wrps.net](mailto:titleixcoordinator@wrps.net)

Brian Oswald, Director of Human Resources  
School District of Wisconsin Rapids  
510 Peach Street, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494  
P: 715-424-6710  
E: [titleixcoordinator@wrps.net](mailto:titleixcoordinator@wrps.net)

Roxy Filtz, Director of Teaching and Learning  
School District of Wisconsin Rapids  
510 Peach Street, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494  
P: 715-424-6710  
E: [titleixcoordinator@wrps.net](mailto:titleixcoordinator@wrps.net)

The Board's nondiscrimination policy and grievance procedures can be located under the Board policies area of the District website located at [www.wrps.org](http://www.wrps.org).

### Statement Concerning Special Accommodations for District Related Communication

English  
WRPS is committed to ensuring that all students and parents have access to school district information, policies, procedures, and programs. If you need assistance with interpreter or translation services, or other special accommodations that would be helpful to you, please contact either your child's school office or call the Pupil Services Department at 715-424-6724 so that we can assist you.

Spanish  
WRPS está comprometido/a a garantizar que todos los estudiantes y padres tengan acceso a la información del distrito escolar, pólizas, procedimientos y programas. Si necesita ayuda con servicios de intérpretes o traducción, o cualquier otra adaptación especial que le sea útil, por favor, póngase en contacto con la oficina de la escuela de su hijo/a o llame al Departamento de Servicios para Alumnos al 715-424-6724 para que podamos ayudarle.

Hmong  
WRPS xav kom txhua tus menyuam thiab niam txiv sawsdaws tau kev pab ntawd lawv lus tsev kawm ntawv txog peb cov ntaub ntawv, kev cai, thiab lub hom phiaj. Yog koj xav tau kev pab txhais lus lossis lwv yam, thov hu rau koj tu menyuam lub tsev kawm ntawv lossis hu rau Pupil Services Department ntawd tu xov tooj 715-424-6724. Peb zoo siab pab koj.