

**RIDLEY HIGH SCHOOL  
FOLSOM, PENNSYLVANIA  
LETTER TO THE CLASS OF 2012**

Dear Senior:

Most likely, you are excited about your senior year and already looking forward to graduation. There is much to accomplish between now and then but, in the meantime, we believe the information provided below will answer many of your questions and concerns regarding commencement. Please retain this letter for future reference and discuss it with your parents.

**SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT DATES**

Tuesday, June 5	-		Senior Final Exams (blocks 1 & 2) 7:45 arrival
Wednesday, June 6	-		Senior Final Exams (blocks 3 & 4) 7:45 arrival
Thursday, June 7			Senior Make-up Exams 7:45 arrival if necessary
Friday, June 8	-	9:30 a.m.	Rehearsal in the auditorium - caps, gowns, seat assignments and commencement tickets distributed.
Tuesday, June 12	-	9:30 a.m.	Mandatory rehearsal – gymnasium/football field - (Bring seat assignment form and take assigned seats upon entering the gym.)
Tuesday, June 12	-	5:15 p.m.	SHARP COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES (football field/gymnasium) Students should arrive at 4:30.

- IMPORTANT:**
1. Students are expected to attend **both** rehearsals. Students unable to attend rehearsal on Friday, June 8 must have the approval of the administration. Rehearsal on Tuesday June 12 is mandatory for participation in commencement.
  2. The ceremony will be cablecast “LIVE” on the Ridley School District channel (Comcast Cable TV channel 11 and RCN TV channel 51), beginning at 5:15 p.m. Also, in the event of inclement weather, due to limited seating in the gymnasium, there will be closed circuit TV viewing available in the auditorium.

**Regulations Regarding Final Examinations:**

1. **In order to receive credit for courses taken, students MUST take final examinations submit and/or present final projects.** Students who fail to take final examinations will **not** receive credit for the designated course(s) and will **not** be eligible to participate in graduation if the course(s) are among those needed to fulfill graduation requirements.
2. Each senior is responsible for knowing the date, time and location of each examination he/she is to take.
3. Any student who does not take a final examination(s) at its regularly scheduled time due to illness, accident, or some unforeseen emergency must submit to the principal’s office a letter from the parent or guardian explaining the reason for the absence. In some cases, the presence of the parent/guardian may be required in determining the legitimacy of the absence. Pending approval from the office and/or department chairperson, the student will be permitted to take a make-up in accordance with the posted schedule.

4. Students are advised that make-up examinations are quite different in form and content from scheduled final exams.
5. Any student whose graduation depends on successfully passing a final examination in a particular subject and who fails to take the examination or its make-up by 2:30 p.m. Thursday, June 7 will not have his/her name included in the commencement program.
6. “No text, no test” regulation: Students are reminded that they will not be permitted to take final examinations until all textbooks and missing property have been returned to their teachers.

### **OUTDOOR CEREMONY**

At graduation rehearsal on June 10, each senior will receive their cap & gown\* and an envelope containing eight tickets: (3) green, (3) white and (2) yellow for admission to the football field. We plan to have limited seating for the elderly and/or handicapped. Access to these seats will be by a special ticket. Students having handicapped guests may exchange a green ticket for a special handicap (BLUE) ticket following rehearsal on June 8 in the main office. In the event of an indoor ceremony, only BLUE ticket holders may use the special seating. *\*The cost of the “keeper” cap & gown is \$35.00 (includes 1 tassel) can be paid in the main office at any time during the school year cash or check (payable to Ridley High School.) This fee must be paid at the time class night tickets are distributed in April.*  
**ALL TICKETS WILL PROVIDE ACCESS TO OUTDOOR SEATING AT THE FOOTBALL FIELD**

### **INDOOR CEREMONY**

In the event of inclement weather, the (3) green tickets given to each graduate will allow admission to the gymnasium. The (3) white tickets will allow admission to the auditorium and the (2) yellow tickets may be used by other family members for closed-circuit viewing of the ceremony in other locations within the building.

### **PARKING**

Guest parking on site will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Guests should plan to arrive early. They may park as follows:

1. High school parking lot
2. Service center (former district office)

**IMPORTANT:** Drivers may transport elderly or handicapped persons to the front of the building. Once passengers have disembarked, the drivers must relocate their cars to designated parking areas. No parking will be permitted in the fire lane.

### **GRADUATION EXERCISES - JUNE**

Graduation exercises have a long history extending back to the Middle Ages. While it’s a joyful time for the graduate, the ceremony is very formal and dignified. It is a time of reflection and a time to look ahead, and each graduate has a special responsibility to make commencement a memorable experience. All eligible seniors are encouraged to participate, but participation is not required.

**Any student choosing not to take part, however, must submit a letter from his/her parent to the principal as soon as possible, but no later than FRIDAY, May 18, 2012.**

Please observe the following:

1. Arrival time 4:30 p.m.
2. Leave valuables, including handbags at home (or with parents).
3. Girls will “dress” in the girls’ gym locker room, boys in the boys’ gym locker room, if necessary.
4. NHS students will pick up and return their stoles in room A102.

### **MANDATORY DRESS CODE**

Formal ceremonies dictate proper dress. Without exception, no senior may participate in the ceremony unless he/she observes the following:

1. Boys are to wear white shirts, ties and dark pants with dress shoes. (**No jeans, sneaker, or flip flops will** be permitted.)
2. Girls are to wear white dresses and white undergarments beneath their white gowns. (NO garment is to show below the gown.) It is suggested that girls wear white dress shoes (no sneakers or flip flops will be permitted), with their white graduation gown. Girls may not wear pants of any kind.

### **CODE OF CONDUCT**

1. **NO SENIOR WILL PARTICIPATE IF IN POSSESSION OR UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ANY ILLEGAL SUBSTANCE, INCLUDING USE OR POSSESSION AT SCHOOL-SPONSORED ACTIVITIES.**
2. **THERE IS TO BE ABSOLUTELY NO SMOKING ON SCHOOL PREMISES.**
3. **MISBEHAVIOR PRIOR TO THE CEREMONY WILL RESULT IN EXCLUSION FROM THE CEREMONY.**
4. **STUDENTS MISBEHAVING DURING THE CEREMONY WILL NOT RECEIVE DIPLOMA.**

Please do not violate this code of conduct and risk the bitter disappointment to yourself and your parents of not participating in the commencement exercises.

### **AFTER THE CEREMONY**

Diplomas can be picked up after the ceremony in front of the building or, in the event of inclement weather, in the Great Hall.

The faculty and administration of Ridley High School are proud of the Class of 2012. Your class has made outstanding contributions to the Ridley tradition of excellence. We wish each of you every happiness and success in the future.

Sincerely,

*William E. Mills*

William E. Mills, Principal

/bt  
8/5/11