

Westlake High School Commencement FAQ's

Q: When can my student pick up their cap and gown?

A: Caps and gowns will be available for pick-up in the Chap Court during both lunches in mid-May. The actual date will be announced once it is confirmed. Students are encouraged to hang their gowns up once bringing them home, to help remove the wrinkles from packaging.

Q: Can we decorate the cap and/or gown?

A: We request that students do NOT decorate their cap and gown, as they will be switched out for a new cap. We strive for a clean and uniform look among the graduates. The only accessories or additions allowed to the standard cap and gown is the school issued honor cords. No decorated caps, flower/leis, pins, etc. should be added to the graduation regalia.

Q: Where is graduation practice? Is graduation practice mandatory?

A: We hold practice right here at WHS. Seniors planning to participate in the commencement ceremony are required to attend practice at the WHS PAC by 8:45 AM on graduation day. We should be done by 11:00 AM.

Q: Is my senior required to ride the bus from WHS to the Frank Erwin Center?

A: NO, they are not required to ride the bus from WHS to the Erwin Center BUT if they plan to, they should be in the PAC parking lot by 5:00 PM to load. The buses will leave WHS for UT at 5:15 PM *sharp*. Students planning to ride the bus TO the Erwin Center should sign up in the AP Office by Friday, May 17.

Q: Do I need tickets for the Erwin Center? Am I limited as to the number of guests I may bring?

A: NO TICKETS NEEDED! The great thing about having graduation at the Erwin Center is that there is no limit to the number of family members you can bring to graduation!

Q: What time do the doors open at the Erwin Center? What time does the ceremony begin?

A: Doors open at 6:00 PM; the ceremony begins at 7:00 PM.

Q: What time should my senior arrive?

A: We will be ready to receive seniors at 6:00 PM. Please do not drop them off any earlier than this. We'd like them all there by 6:15.

Q: What is my senior allowed to carry into the Erwin Center?

A: NOTHING. Students will be searched upon arrival and everything, including cell phones, will be confiscated and labeled with his or her name, and returned WHS. Graduates attending Project Graduation following the ceremony will be able to pick up their confiscated items (provided that they are legal to have on a school campus). Graduates not attending PG may

pick up their items in the Counseling Office on the Tuesday following graduation.

Q: May I come into the waiting area with the seniors for photos/hugs/etc?

A: No, only students and WHS faculty working at the commencement may be inside the waiting area.

Q: Will there be a photographer/videographer at commencement?

A: YES, Flash Photography is the official photographer for this event and Angel Productions is the official videographer. Flash Photography will email graduation photo proofs to your senior within a few days after graduation. Order forms for DVDs of the ceremony will be emailed throughout the semester.

Q: May I come down onto the Erwin Center floor to take photos or personally congratulate our graduate either during or after the ceremony?

A: NO, only WHS students, WHS faculty working at the commencement, approved commercial photographers & videographers, and UT Erwin Center crew may be on the floor at the Erwin Center.

Q: I know my son or daughter is planning to toss that mortarboard into the air when the balloons drop! Will he or she get her cap back?

A: Be sure to clearly write his or her name inside the cap; we will collect most of the thrown caps and return them to WHS, where they will be available for pick up in the Counseling Office on the Tuesday following graduation. Graduates are encouraged to remove their tassel to keep prior to tossing their cap.

Q: Is my child required to ride the bus from the Frank Erwin Center back to WHS?

A: If your *GRADUATE* plans to attend Project Grad immediately following the conclusion of the ceremony, he or she **MUST** ride a school bus back to WHS from the Erwin Center. If your graduate does **NOT** plan to attend PG, you should select a post-ceremony meeting place **PRIOR** to your arrival at the Erwin Center, since he or she won't have his or her cell phone!

Q: Where can I find more information about Project Graduation?

A: Project Graduation information, contacts, and resources can be found at www.westlakepg.com

If you have other graduation-related questions not answered here, please have your Senior come see, email, or call Assistant Principal Casey Ryan at cryan@eanesisd.net.