

Westerville North High School
Senior Newsletter

Congratulations Class of 2015

April 8, 2015

To Westerville North Seniors and Parents:

The culmination of a thirteen-year educational career is quickly approaching for our seniors and their families. The Class of 2015 has been a positive, cooperative and talented class. The staff at WNHS extends its best wishes to the members of this class and their families. The following is a brief review of the important items and events about which you, as seniors and parents of seniors, need to be informed.

1. **Qualifications for Diploma** - Only those students who have earned at least the minimum 20 credits required for a diploma and have passed all five sections of the Ohio Graduation Test may participate in the commencement program. The WNHS Guidance Department has been in contact with the parents of students who are experiencing academic difficulties that might put their graduation in jeopardy. For some students, their final graduation status may not be known until the completion of senior exams on **May 14th & 15th**. Please call your student's counselor at (614) 797-6214 if you have questions regarding your child's graduation.

2. **AP Testing**- May 4th – 15th, 2015.

3. **Junior/Senior Prom** – Saturday, May 9th at Villa Milano, 8:00pm – 11:00pm. Tickets are \$35.00 each.

4. **Senior Night of Reflection & Senior Award** - The Senior Class planning committee has organized a program that highlights the senior class on Monday, **May 11th**, at 7:00 p.m. in the Westerville North auditorium. Academic Boosters and the Guidance Department coordinate awards, scholarships and other honors to qualifying seniors. Senior slide show and Outstanding Senior are awarded. Seniors, their families, and friends are encouraged to attend.

6. **Senior Exams** - Senior exams will be given during the **regular class periods** on Thursday, **May 14th** and Friday, **May 15th**. The majority of our seniors will not have to take their finals because of their outstanding academic performance and their exemplary disciplinary record. Seniors who do have to take the exams will be using the following exam schedule and will be excused from school at the completion of their exams.

Thursday, May 14th
Friday, May 15th

English, Music, Science
Social Studies, Math, all other electives

7. **Senior Class Trip**- On Tuesday, **May 19th**, the senior class is sponsoring a trip to Cedar Point. Seniors will meet at 7:15 a.m. in the East parking lot at North, and the buses will depart promptly at 7:30 a.m. and return to North by 10:00 p.m. **Students must return to their bus by 7:00 p.m. for departure.** All school rules apply.

8. **Commencement Rehearsal** – Rehearsal will be held at **10:00 a.m.** on Friday, **May 22nd** at the Celeste Center located at the Ohio State Fairgrounds. (Follow I-71 South to exit 111 and turn right onto 17th Avenue). Please enter at the 17th Avenue gate and park in the lot closest to the Celeste Center. Seniors are **required** to attend the entire rehearsal. Upon your arrival, report to the seating area inside the building. Students are encouraged to car pool. **No Book Bags and No Visitors. There is no charge for parking for rehearsal. Map and driving directions are enclosed.**

9. Commencement - The big day is **Saturday, May 23rd, at 2:00 p.m.** at the Celeste Center, 17th Avenue, Columbus. **Graduates are expected to report by 1:00 p.m.** There will be no reserved seating for family and friends, but there will be a section reserved for the hearing impaired. Please contact Stephanie McGeorge prior to May 23rd at (614) 797-6207 if you would like to reserve seating in this area. There is plenty of seating on floor level for handicapped, no reservation needed. There is plenty of seating for family members, no tickets are required. **Parking is \$5.00 per vehicle. Graduates will not be receiving a parking pass this year.**

Appropriate Dress for Commencement - Girls - dresses, skirts and blouses, dress slacks and blouses. Make sure you bring pins to hold your cap on. Boys - shirts and ties, dress trousers and your best shoes are preferred. **Please do not wear tennis shoes or jeans.** **There are to be no markings on your caps.** Remove your gowns from the bags and hang to help eliminate the wrinkles. If you press your gown, use low heat or steam.

A Time of Celebration - I have often been asked by parents, guests, and professional colleagues how we are able to have such dignified and positive commencement ceremonies. In fact, we are one of the last schools to give graduates their diplomas during the actual ceremony. In many schools, the diploma is used as a threat to keep students in line during the graduation and they have to pick them up after the event. I refuse to do that because the tradition has been established at Westerville North that commencement is a time to celebrate the accomplishments of each and every one of our graduates. Our students deserve the right to be recognized and most importantly receive their diplomas without interruptions and distractions. I respectfully request your help in discouraging any behavior which may be disruptive of our school's positive educational climate. I know the Class of 2015 will carry on that tradition and that we will all work together – staff, students and parents—to have the most pleasant and dignified culminating experience in the history of our school.

Graduation Photographs – Lifetouch will be taking a photograph of your graduate receiving his/her diploma at graduation. If you would like to purchase the picture, log on to www.lifetouchevents.com and enter the password *westervillenorth15* to access the pictures. All photos will be available for purchase within 48 hours after commencement and be posted for 90 days. For questions, contact Kaci Fox at Lifetouch at kacifox@lifetouch.com.

10. Financial Obligations - All obligations must be paid by the close of graduation practice. If students have any fines or fees which have not been paid, they will receive only the folder and the diploma will be held until they have taken care of all obligations. We will not accept payment or return of items on graduation day.

11. Diploma Options - Students not participating in the formal commencement program on May 23rd may pick up their diplomas in the guidance office beginning Tuesday, May 26th. **Diplomas will not be mailed.**

12. Caps and Gowns - Those students who elect to participate in the formal commencement must make arrangements to purchase a cap and gown. If you have overlooked this matter, contact the NRP representative, Joe Palmieri 330.631.4741 or NRPGadOhio.com/0635-88. Gowns as well as announcements are still available. If you have already received your gown, please check immediately for size and condition. **A reminder to those planning to wear a borrowed robe...**the only robes that can be used are the boys' cardinal robes and the girls' 2011 gold robes.

13. Other Non-School Senior Related Programs and Promotions - Each year a number of private or commercial programs designed to appeal to seniors develop. Please be advised that these programs, including King's Island Grad Night, are NOT school sponsored. Therefore, if seniors participate, they do so on their own and not as a school-sponsored activity. **We will not be excusing students early to attend any of these activities.**

I would like to conclude my remarks by thanking the members of the Class of 2015 for their many contributions during the school year. As you know, we held an opening ceremony at the beginning of the year to impress upon our Seniors the importance of being role models for the rest of the school. I asked them to take an Oath in front of the entire student body and Westerville North Learning Community to be leaders and help continue the traditions that make this school so great. They certainly have done this and have been a pleasure to work with all year. I know you are also very proud of your students and my best wishes go out to each and every one of you.

Congratulations!



Kurt Yancey
Principal

