

# OPERATION GRADUATION 2024

GRADUATION INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE 24 HOURS A DAY, SEVEN DAYS A WEEK, ON THE WEB AT <http://www.gar-field.org/>

## COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

Saturday, June 1, 2024  
2:00 p.m.  
EagleBank Arena  
George Mason University  
Fairfax, Virginia



## WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE BEFORE GRADUATION?

- Complete ALL academic requirements and verify your credits. Contact your school counselor with any questions.
- Do not participate in any pranks. Code of behavior violations will be disciplined through graduation. Disciplinary actions include not being allowed to participate in the Graduation ceremony.
- Clear all school debts. If you need to return school computers or if you owe money for library fines, transcript fees, lost textbooks, equipment, or uniform charges, etc., you cannot participate in the Graduation ceremony. Items other than school computers should be returned to teachers, sponsors, or coaches.
- Seniors are expected to return their laptops and chargers to the library staff after taking their last final exam. Student device receipts will be issued to seniors who return their laptops and chargers. **All senior devices should be returned by May 29, 2024.** Seniors not in possession of their school-issued laptops and chargers should see Mrs. Barquero in the Main Office as soon as possible. **Seniors who do not return their laptops and chargers will not be allowed to participate in the Graduation ceremony.**

## MANDATORY GRADUATION PRACTICE SCHEDULE

May 29, 2024 from 10:40 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Gar-Field main gymnasium  
May 30, 2024 from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. in the Gar-Field main gymnasium

**ATTENDANCE AT GRADUATION PRACTICE IS REQUIRED. IF YOU ARE LATE OR MISS ANY OF THE PRACTICES, YOU WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE CEREMONY.**

## IMPORTANT DATES FOR SENIORS

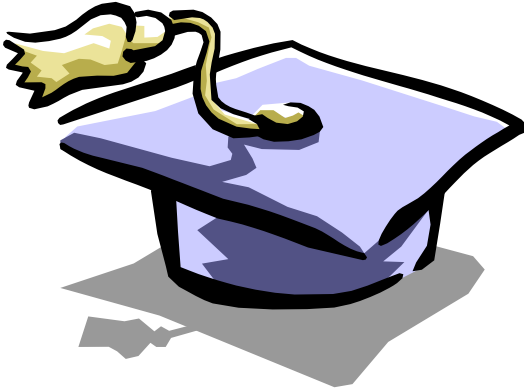
<b>April 11 and April 25</b> Representatives from Josten's will be at GFHS for cap/gown delivery and for receiving new orders	<b>May 3</b> Prom at Sweeney Barn in Manassas, VA from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.	<b>May 16</b> IB and Senior Awards Ceremony at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium
<b>May 18</b> Senior Class trip to Hershey Park in Hershey, PA	<b>May 23</b> Deadline for paying all school-related debts	<b>May 23 (PD 4/6), May 24 (PD 5/7), May 28 (PD 2/3), and May 29 (PD 1)</b> Senior Exams
<b>May 29 and 30</b> Graduation practices in gymnasium	<b>May 30</b> Senior Class picnic after Graduation practice	<b>June 1</b> Graduation ceremony at EagleBank Arena at 2:00 p.m.

## WHAT IS THE DRESS CODE FOR GRADUATION?

Graduation is a solemn ceremony marking the accomplishments of all the participating seniors. It is a formal occasion, and our graduation dress code reflects our community's desire to have a dignified and honorable ceremony. If any student has questions regarding this policy, then he/she should see Mrs. Milly Polanco (polancme@pwcs.edu) before May 15, 2024. Improper dress will result in removal from the graduation line.

### Young men

- Black dress pants
- Black dress shoes and socks
- Dress shirt and tie
- Red cap and gown



### Young ladies

- Black dress or black dress pants
- Black dress shoes with open/closed toe and closed heel
- High heels are okay, but not recommended
- No casual sandals or flip-flops
- Dress should be suitable for a formal occasion (not too tight, too revealing, etc.)
- Red cap and gown

## HOW TO WEAR YOUR CAP AND GOWN:

- The cap should be flat on your head and parallel to the ground.
- Men must remove their cap during the National Anthem.
- Specific cap decoration information is attached.
- Your gown should fall midway between the knee and ankle.
- Tassels are to be worn on the right side and flipped to the left when you are declared graduates.

## ADDITIONAL NOTES ON AWARDS AND MEDALS:

- IB students should see the attached order form for your assorted cords and their costs.
- National Honor Society members should wear gold stoles and tassels.
- Principal's awards recipients should wear medals.
- Any regalia worn during the ceremony must be school sponsored.

## WHAT ARE THE BEHAVIOR AND DECORUM EXPECTATIONS FOR SENIORS?

Seniors are expected to follow all the directions emphasized during the rehearsals. Any frivolous or distracting activity before, during, or after the ceremony will not be tolerated. This includes the time when seniors are waiting in line prior to the event, marching into the arena, sitting in the graduate area, advancing to, coming across, and leaving the stage, and exiting the arena. Garfield High School faculty and the EagleBank security staff will respond to any such inappropriate conduct. Cell phones and other electronic devices are not allowed on the arena floor. We can collect your phone and keep it for distribution after the event.

## HOW DO WE GET TO EAGLEBANK ARENA?

### Directions from Gar-Field High School:

Turn left on Smoketown Road  
Turn right on to Minnieville Road  
Turn right on Old Bridge Road, continue until it ends  
Turn left on Route 123 North  
Proceed approximately 12 miles and turn right on to Braddock Road at University Mall  
Take your first left on Roanoke Drive and follow signs to EagleBank Arena parking

### Directions from the Capital Beltway:

From the beltway, I-495, take exit #54A (Braddock Road) and proceed West on Braddock Road for 6 miles to George Mason University on the right  
Follow signs to EagleBank Arena parking

### Directions from I-66 and points West:

From I-66, take exit #55 on to the Fairfax County Parkway (Route 286)  
Proceed South on the Parkway toward Springfield and take the Braddock Road exit  
Go East (left) on Braddock Road approximately 2 miles, and turn left on Roanoke Drive and follow signs to EagleBank Arena parking

### Directions from I-95 and points South:

From Richmond or Fredericksburg, take I-95 exit #160 on Route 123 North  
Proceed approximately 12 miles and turn right on to Braddock Road at University Mall  
Take your first left on Roanoke Drive and follow signs to EagleBank Arena parking

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ARRIVAL AND SEATING:

### GRADUATES

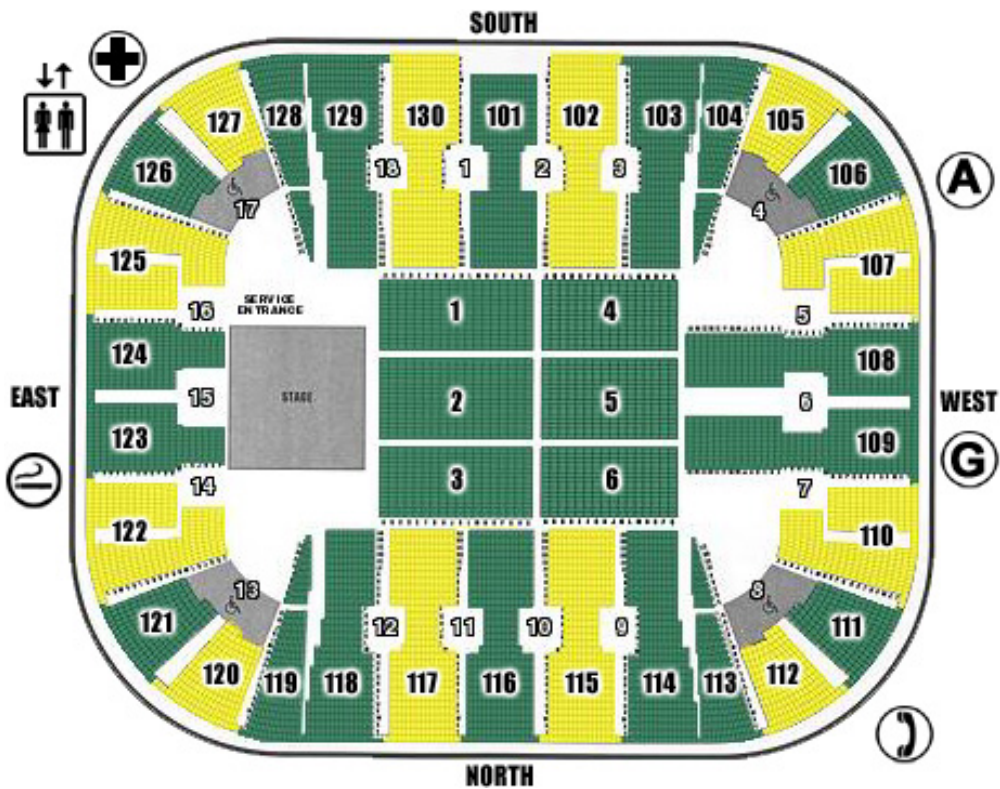
- Buses will be provided to transport any member of the Class of 2023 from Gar-Field High School to EagleBank Arena. Please see Mr. Gray by **May 17, 2024** to reserve your seat on the bus. The attached parent permission form must be completed to reserve a seat on this bus. This bus will depart from Gar-Field Senior High School at 11:15 a. m. on June 1, 2024.
- Graduates should park as directed by EagleBank arena staff and report to the lower East entrance between 1:00 p.m. and 1:15 p.m.
- The lower East entrance is for students only. All graduates should plan to meet their guests outside of the building after the ceremony near the North and West entrances. After the ceremony, graduates will recess directly from the arena floor to the concourse near the North and West entrances.

### PARENTS AND OTHER GUESTS

- Plan to arrive at 1:00 p.m. to allow plenty of time to find parking and to find a seat.
- Arena doors will open at 1:00 p.m. The ceremony will begin promptly at 2:00 p.m.
- Handicapped seating is available in rows E, F, and G. Wheelchair seating is available in the West end of the arena in portals 4 and 8 and in the East end of the arena in portals 13 and 17.
- Please help us maintain a formal and solemn environment during the ceremony. Please remain seated, and do not call out over the student names as they are read over the public address system. Air horns and helium balloons are not allowed in EagleBank Arena.
- There will be a bag check conducted on all guests coming to the event. No exceptions. To help enhance the contactless experience, EagleBank Arena is encouraging guests to not bring a bag. If a guest requires a bag for personal or health reasons, we strongly recommend that patrons bring something small and/or clear to expedite the screening process. Prohibited items include weapons, outside food or beverage, fireworks, balloons, noisemakers, nonservice animals, illegal drugs, laser pointers, luggage/oversized bags, flags/banners that could block someone's view, any size pole or stick (medical aids such as canes/crutches are permitted), drones, bottles/cans/containers/coolers,

skateboards/rollerblades/hoverboards, projectiles (frisbees, footballs, inflatable balls, etc.), and unapproved pamphlets/handouts/etc. EagleBank Arena reserves the right to prohibit any other item which is deemed unsafe or inappropriate. EagleBank Arena will not check or store any prohibited item. It is important for the prohibited items list to be shared with graduates and attendees in advance. The use of still cameras and video cameras at graduations is expected and allowed. However, attendees may only film from their seats. Standing in aisles or portals is strictly prohibited. The use of electrical cords, tripods, or selfie sticks is also prohibited.

### EAGLEBANK ARENA DIAGRAM



For additional directions and maps, visit EagleBank Arena on the web at [www.eaglebankarena.com](http://www.eaglebankarena.com).

## **OTHER INFORMATION**

### **IB Scores and Transcripts**

IB scores will be available online for students on July 6, 2024. All students who have taken an IB exam during the May 2024 session will receive a one-time user password and PIN number to use when downloading scores. Make sure you indicate in Naviance where you want official copies of IB scores sent. IB score transcripts will be sent directly to the colleges and universities from the IBO free of charge for students who indicate in Naviance where transcripts are to be sent by Tuesday, May 23, 2024. Remember that IB transcripts will not reach your university or college earlier than July 6, 2024.

### **Senior Picnic**

May 30, 2024

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

The Senior Picnic is back! Free games, food, obstacle course, and other activities will highlight our 2024 Senior Picnic at the football stadium following the final Graduation rehearsal. Any parents of seniors who want to volunteer to help with this event should contact Mrs. Polanco at (571) 298-0051 or polancME@pwcs.edu.

### **Memories Video Videotaping/Live Streaming of event links**

Live stream of event

<https://tinyurl.com/Gar-Field2024>

Link for direct ordering of Graduation video

<https://tinyurl.com/Gar-Field-Ordering>

### **Yearbooks**

The yearbook is on sale now for \$70.



Scan the code to buy it online with a credit or debit card, or go to <https://tinyurl.com/GFHS24Yearbook>

Online sales end on May 1, 2024. If you want to buy a yearbook with cash, bring \$70 to room 1707 in the Business Department. In-person sales end when we run out of books. Supplies are limited. Last year we sold out. Don't wait until the last minute to buy your yearbook, because we cannot order any extra copies once they're gone!

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

**Victor O'Neill photography order form**

**Josten's flyer for ordering caps, gowns, and other Graduation items**

**IB cord order form**

**Cap decoration guidelines**

**Memories Video order form**

**Senior bus transportation permission form**