

Walter Johnson Class of 2023

Dear Class of 2023 Graduates and Families,

Congratulations on your senior's upcoming graduation! We are parent volunteers assisting the administration, senior class advisors and senior class officers regarding graduation details to provide the Class of 2023 a memorable finish to their high school years. This is one of many pieces of information that you will be receiving between now and graduation. Please take a few moments to read through the entire document as it contains a lot of information and is intended to answer many of your questions.

WJ CLASS OF 2023 CANVAS PAGE

All seniors should have joined the WJ Class of 2023 canvas page. This is where all information related to the senior class is being relayed via “announcements” (senior dues, prom, graduation, etc.). Seniors who have not joined should do so as soon as possible.

SENIOR PAGE ON WJ WEBSITE

You will find information about the senior class on the WJ Homepage under WJ Quick Links – Site Map-Class News-Seniors. (<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/wjhs/students/classes/senior/>). The senior class page is used to post important dates and links to important information for senior students and their families.

PROM 2023

Prom will be held this year on Friday, May 19, 2023, from 8:00 pm -11:00 pm at The Bolger Center, Ben Franklin Hall in Potomac, MD. Doors close promptly at 10:00 pm.

Prom tickets will be on sale Monday, April 17 through Thursday, May 11. Ticket price per person is \$53 and must be purchased during those dates. Please purchase using <https://www.schoolcashionline.com>. Students with financial concerns should speak with their School Administrator. Those who want to purchase tickets with cash, or a check must see Ms. Cosgrove in the Main Office. Prom tickets can be picked up during lunch at the Kiosk from Monday, May 15 – Thursday, May 18. Tickets are non-refundable and non-transferable.

SENIOR OBLIGATIONS MUST BE CLEARED PRIOR TO RECEIVING PROM TICKETS.

Seniors bringing Prom guests who do not attend WJ must complete and return the appropriate forms to their School Administrator no later than Monday, May 8th in order to get their tickets. The forms can be printed from links on the WJ website or picked up in the Main Office beginning on Monday, April 17.

POST PROM PARTY

The Post Prom Party will be held in the WJHS cafeteria from 11:00 pm on Friday, May 19 through 3:00 am on Saturday, May 20. It is **free of charge** and **open to all seniors, whether they attend Prom or not, plus one WJ underclassmen or preapproved non-WJ guest**. Senior parents are asked to donate \$60 to the PTSA for Post Prom. Donations can be made through the PTSA Square site. More information is available at WJPostPromParty.wordpress.com. Buses will be provided to transport the students from the Bolger Center to WJ starting at 10:30 pm. Doors close promptly at 1:00 am.

All students bringing guests to the Post Prom Party from outside the senior class MUST register their guests in advance. If your guest is registered for Prom, they are automatically registered for Post Prom. If you do not go to Prom, you must register your guest in the main office in advance. No one will be admitted to Post Prom unless he or she is a WJ Senior or a guest registered IN ADVANCE. The forms can be printed from links on the WJ website or picked up in the Main Office beginning on Monday, April 17.

Post Prom Party Volunteers will be needed, and SSL hours will be offered to underclassmen volunteers.

SENIOR OBLIGATIONS MUST BE CLEARED PRIOR TO RECEIVING GRADUATION TICKETS, CAPS AND GOWNS

Senior dues are \$71.

If you have not already done so, please confirm that all your obligations have been resolved. This can be done by checking your account at <https://www.schoolcashionline.com> or by contacting Ginger Howard (Virginia_E_Howard@mcpsmd.org). For Media Center and/or chromebook obligations contact Naomi Gelfand (Naomi_R_Gelfand@mcpsmd.org).

How to pay online by credit card. Go to <https://www.schoolcashionline.com> Look for “Senior Dues – Class of 2023” in the Item Name list.

How to pay by cash or check. Checks for Senior Dues should be made payable to Walter Johnson High School, with a note in the memo section of the check including the following information: Student Name, MCPS ID# and “Senior Dues”. Pay all monies to Lisa Sorensen in the Counseling Office during lunch.

All seniors have ordered their caps & gowns in school. Only seniors who have paid their dues or obligations will receive their tickets, cap and gown on June 7th.

Only seniors who have paid their dues or obligations will be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony.

Obligations may be paid at Graduation Rehearsal, although it is not recommended. If you have an obligation, please resolve it NOW. If there is a financial concern, please contact your student’s School Administrator.

GRADUATION DATE

The Class of 2023 graduation is scheduled for Friday, June 9, 2023 from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm at the University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC) Event Center (Chesapeake Employers Insurance Arena), 1000 Hilltop Circle, Baltimore, MD 21250.

GRADUATION REHEARSAL

There is a **MANDATORY** rehearsal for all graduating seniors on **Wednesday, June 7, 2023 at 7:45 am** in the **Walter Johnson cafeteria**. Seniors will receive their caps, gowns and graduation tickets at graduation rehearsal.

All seniors must be present, on time and bring an ID. Due to logistics, any student who is late or misses rehearsal for any reason will be placed at the end of the processional at the graduation ceremony.

If there is a conflict, please contact your student’s School Administrator right away. If an emergency arises on June 7, please call the front office at 240-740-6900 immediately.

GRADUATION TICKETS AND EXTRA TICKETS

Our 2023 class has over 700 graduating seniors. One of the benefits of changing venues for graduation to UMBC is that each graduate will be able to receive more tickets for family and friends to attend. Each graduating senior will receive six (6) tickets for family members and/or guests to attend the graduation ceremony. The graduating senior does not require a ticket, but all other family members and guests, including children (excludes lap infants), must have a ticket to attend.

We realize some families would like additional tickets and every year there are unused graduation tickets. Therefore, we have set up a Google form ([2023 Graduation Tickets](#)) to help those that have extra tickets to give any they don’t need and those that would like to receive up to 2 extra tickets. Please complete and submit the form no later than Friday, April 28th.

We cannot guarantee that there will be any additional tickets. The BEST way to **arrange for extra tickets is to TALK to each other!** Many families may not need 6 tickets, and with students asking friends and parents networking with other parents, it is possible to find extras. You will be notified by Friday, May 5th if you will be receiving additional tickets.

Please help all families who need extra tickets to find them by not letting your extra tickets go unused.

ATTIRE

Attire is important. Graduates will be walking across the stage in front of their fellow graduates and their guests, please wear smart and appropriate clothing under your gown; Please no jeans, shorts, sneakers, or flip flops. Graduates please wear a collared shirt or blouse and nice pants, or a dress/skirt. **All students, please bring bobby pins for your cap.** Students should not bring any backpacks, bags or purses in to graduation, as there will be no place to leave them. They should be left with your family or in your car.

GRADUATE ARRIVAL TIME AND DIRECTIONS

Graduates should arrive at the UMBC Event Center wearing their cap (with tassel) and gown, sash and any cords they have earned **NO LATER than 8:30 am.** Graduates should enter the UMBC Event Center through the student entrance on the ground level of the side of the arena. The student entrance can be accessed from the sidewalk in front of the venue or stairs from the side of the main entrance plaza. There will be directional signage in place leading to the different entrances. Parents will not be permitted in the staging area.

GUEST ARRIVAL TIME AND PARKING

The doors will open for guests at 9:00 am. Guests will enter through the main entrance on the first level. Bags no larger than 12"x12"x8" will be permitted into Chesapeake Employers Insurance Arena. Guests who have bags larger than this size will be asked to return them to their vehicles or discard them. This is in addition to the existing policy that all bags, purses or personal items of any size are subject to search. Diaper bags or Medical bags are allowed to exceed that size limit, but will be searched. No outside food or beverages are allowed in the venue. Concessions stands with water and coffee will be open at 9:00 am.

The UMBC campus has ample free parking for students and guests. Parking attendants and traffic attendants will be on site for incoming and outgoing traffic. There will be signage placed throughout the campus directing guests to the venue and parking lots.

GUEST SEATING AND DIRECTIONS

All guests should be seated no later than 9:45 am and the ceremony will begin promptly at 10:00 am.

Guests will not have specific assigned seats. Keep in mind when considering who should come to graduation that the ceremony lasts approximately two hours and is mostly sitting and listening. It takes about 30 - 45 minutes to get in and out of the arena, which makes the event last about 3 – 3 1/2 hours. This is something to take into consideration if your family includes young infants and/or elderly adults.

ADA SEATING

If you are bringing family members or guests who may need assistance or require ADA seating, please note: only the person with the need, plus one other person will have priority accessibility to ADA seating. The entire family/group will NOT be seated with that person. All guests must have tickets. To arrange for this, please complete this Google Form (<https://forms.gle/uT2tKbobJpXJ69eX9>) **no later than April 28.**

LANGUAGE TRANSLATION

If your family requires sign language or language translation, please complete this Google Form (<https://forms.gle/JEN1wt9yx14n28Mr7>) **no later than April 28.**

PRESENTATION OF DIPLOMAS

After the Board of Education Member's presentation, faculty members will direct graduates to the stage. After your graduate's name is read, he/she will cross the stage, receive his/her diploma case, walk down the steps of the stage and return to his/her chair.

PARENTS ARE REQUESTED TO REMAIN SEATED DURING THE PRESENTATION OF DIPLOMAS AND TO REFRAIN FROM BLOCKING THE AISLES TO TAKE PICTURES.

DIPLOMAS WILL BE ISSUED BY COUNSELORS AFTER THE RECESSIONAL. ONLY THE STUDENTS WILL BE GIVEN THE DIPLOMA.

High school graduation is a very special, once in a lifetime event. Families and friends have come to see their loved ones graduate and to listen to the program. They have the right to expect respectful attention during the ceremony. Please silence your cell phones and be courteous to those around you.

The graduation will end at approximately 12:00 pm. Graduates will exit through the staff entrance on the ground level and proceed up the ramp to meet their families and guests. Graduates generally will hang out a bit outside taking family and group photos. There is a large plaza walkway to accommodate this activity.

RECORDING AND LIVE STREAMING

The graduation ceremony will be live streamed so that relatives and loved ones at home may watch live on-line. The web link for the live stream will be posted on the WJ home page on graduation day. The ceremony will also be recorded and uploaded to the WJ YouTube page.

Congratulations! We hope you enjoy this very exciting time. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us and we will try to help address them.

Sincerely,

Karen Greenfeld (karengreenfeld@icloud.com)

Debby Orsak (debby@cagley.com)

Michele Santy (leonettiSanty@gmail.com)

Parent Volunteers, 2023 WJ Graduation Committee

Important Dates:

May 19 Prom at Bolger Center

May 19-20 Post Prom Party at WJ Cafeteria

June 7 Graduation Rehearsal at WJ Cafeteria at 7:45 am (Seniors pick up Caps, Gowns and Tickets)

June 9 Graduation at UMBC Event Center 10:00 am-12:00 pm, students must arrive by 8:30 am
