

2021 Graduation Events

Information for Seniors and Senior Parents

Following is a list of the graduation activities that have been scheduled for the Class of 2021.

Campus Cruise

Thursday, May 6, 6:00 p.m. along Alumni Drive on the SMA Campus

When the pandemic forced all of our students to finish the 2020 school year at home, SMA held a “Campus Cruise” as a way to celebrate our seniors in a safe, socially distanced manner ([see 2020 video here](#)). Because the event was such a huge hit, we have scheduled the second annual Campus Cruise for the Class of 2021. For this event, members of the senior class can decorate their own car and drive it through the campus or ride with a family member or other adult driver in a decorated car. Boarding students who need a vehicle to ride in are encouraged to ask any of our teachers or staff to help out. The cars will be lined up at the entrance gate and will parade down Alumni Drive to the football stadium. Friends and family can park along the road in tailgate fashion to cheer on the seniors as they pass by. After the parade, the seniors will gather on the field for a group photo. View or share the [Campus Cruise invitation](#).

End-of-Year Academy Awards Program

Friday, May 7, 8:00 a.m. in the Robinson Christian Center (RCC)

A variety of awards, including academic, residential, athletic, fine arts, and alumni service awards, are presented to students in Middle and Upper School at the End-of-Year Academy Awards program. A highlight of the program is the presentation of the Senior Montage, a special video tribute to the senior class, featuring baby/elementary age photos and the senior yearbook photo for each senior. Senior girls will wear the summer white dress and senior boys will wear a suit and tie. This is a ticketed event; seniors will be given 6 tickets each to share with family or friends. Tickets must be turned in at the door.

Ascension Ceremony

Friday, May 7, following the Academy Awards Program (see above) in the (RCC)

The SMA Ascension Ceremony is the official “promotion” ceremony for our students in grades 6-11, who will “rise” from their current class grade to the class they will be part of next year. The seniors will line up at the front of the auditorium to witness the ascension of each class of students. All Middle and Upper School students are expected to attend this program, which will follow immediately after the Academy Awards program. Guidelines for attire and attendance are provided above in the Academy Awards Program description.

Baccalaureate Service

Friday, May 7, 7:00 p.m. in the Robinson Christian Center (RCC)

The Baccalaureate is a special Christian church/chapel service in honor of our seniors. A speaker will be invited to give a sermon during the service, which usually also includes a congregational song and special music. The seniors will file in wearing suits and ties (boys) and suits with hats

and gloves (girls). Seniors should gather for this event at 6 p.m. in the library for roll call, photos, and lineup. Attendance will be restricted to seniors and their family and invited guests.

Rose and Sabre Ceremony

Saturday, May 8, 9:00 a.m. in the RCC

During this very special ceremony, each senior boy and girl will be presented to the audience while their achievements and accomplishments at the Academy, as well as their plans for college or career, are read aloud. The girls will wear a summer white dress, while the boys wear their dress cadet uniform or a tuxedo (provided by SMA). Girls carry a yellow rose, and the senior cadets wear a sabre. After each senior has been presented, the class will relocate to the Prayer Garden, adjacent to the RCC, where the Senior Gate will be unlocked for the only time during the year. Each couple will then pass through this historic gate to signify their passage from adolescence into adulthood. Many seniors view this ceremony as one of the highlights of their time at the SMA. Attendance will be restricted to family and invited guests of the Senior Class.

Commencement

Saturday, May 8, 3:00 p.m. in the RCC

From the beginning of the school year, all seniors look forward to that moment when their name is called and they cross the stage to receive their high school diploma. The 113th annual Commencement for San Marcos Academy will create lasting memories for the Senior Class. All seniors are asked to report by 2:00 p.m. to the school library for a group photograph and to line up and prepare for the processional. The Commencement program includes speeches by the valedictorian and salutatorian of the class and the presentation of awards, including the President's Cup and the McNeil Cup. Attire for girls for this event is a pure-white, floor-length gown. Boys will wear either the dress cadet uniform or a tuxedo that is provided by San Marcos Academy. Attendance at Commencement will be limited to family and invited guests of the Senior Class.

Class of 2021 Reception

Saturday, May 8, following Commencement in the Dining Hall

Following Commencement, the Bear Network will host a reception in the Dining Hall to honor the Class of 2021. Everyone at Commencement is invited to drop by to celebrate with our graduates.