

Graduation Information for Seniors and Parents

Graduation Events

Graduation at San Marcos Academy involves a number of traditions that have been part of the graduation experience for many years. Following is a list of the activities in which our seniors will take part. Parents and families are welcome to any or all of these events:

Ribbon Ceremony

Thursday, May 7, 5:30 p.m. in the Prayer Garden, adjacent to the RCC

This ceremony is particularly for our junior and senior girls. The senior girls wear white summer dresses and form a circle outside in the prayer garden, holding a special ribbon that has been handed down for many years. The junior girls, in their dress uniforms, form a circle behind the seniors, standing close to their big sisters. Several readings, short addresses and songs are presented by the girls, and the culmination of the event is the passing of the ribbon from the senior girls to the junior girls, symbolizing that the juniors are taking over the mantle of leadership as the rising Senior Class. Girls in ninth and tenth grades are encouraged to attend this ceremony, along with senior boys, in support of the junior and senior girls. Students and families are welcome to eat supper in the Dining Hall after the event (prior to the Awards Ceremony)

End-of-Year Academy Awards Program

Thursday, May 7, 7:30 p.m. in the RCC

A variety of awards are presented to Middle and Upper School students at the End-of-Year Academy Awards program, including academic, residential, athletic, fine arts, and alumni service awards. A highlight of the program is the presentation of the Senior Montage, featuring baby/elementary age photos and the senior yearbook photo for each senior. All students in grades 6-12 are expected to attend this program. Senior girls wear the summer white dress and senior boys wear a suit and tie. All other students in grades 6-11 should wear the school dress uniform.

Baccalaureate Service and Ascension Ceremony

Friday, May 8, 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) and will sit in a reserved section at the front of the auditorium. Students in grades 5-12 are required to attend the event, and will be seated by classes, wearing their dress uniforms. After the Baccalaureate Service, we move directly into the Ascension Ceremony. This is the official “promotion” ceremony for grades 5-12 as they “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.

Rose and Sabre Ceremony

Saturday, May 9, 9:00 a.m. in the Prayer Garden/Senior Gate area, adjacent to the RCC

This very special ceremony for all seniors marks the only time during the year when the Senior Gate is unlocked. Senior boys escort the senior girls through this historic gate to signify their passage from adolescence into adulthood. As each couple passes through, the students' achievements and accomplishments while at the Academy are read aloud, along with their plans to attend college or pursue other fields of study, service or work. The girls wear summer white dresses, while the boys wear their dress military uniform or a tuxedo. Girls carry a yellow rose, and the senior cadets wear a sabre. Many seniors view this ceremony as one of the highlights of their time at the Academy. Seating is limited, so parents are encouraged to arrive early.

Commencement

Saturday, May 9, 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 112th 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. Families will want to find their seats in the RCC early; we will reserve some areas specifically for senior families, so be sure to tell the student ushers you are a senior parent. The Commencement program includes an address to the students by the valedictorian and salutatorian. Attire for girls for this event is a pure-white, formal gown that must be approved by a committee. Boys will wear either the dress JROTC uniform or a tuxedo that is provided by San Marcos Academy.

Class of 2020 Reception

Saturday, May 9, following Commencement in the Dining Hall

Following Commencement, the Academy's Bear Network will host a reception in the Dining Hall to honor the Class of 2020. Everyone is invited to drop by to celebrate with the graduates.