

GRADUATION INSTRUCTIONS

1. You do not have to participate in the graduation ceremony in order to receive a diploma. **Parents must submit a written request for non-participation to Mr. Saunderson by Friday, May 8, 2009.**
2. Although participation in the graduation ceremony is voluntary, **attendance at all graduation rehearsals is mandatory in order to participate in the ceremony.** Be on time and stay for the full time. Perfect practice makes a perfect ceremony.
3. Caps and gowns are required attire for the Graduation Ceremony and the Senior Farewell Assembly.
 - a. Seniors should wear their caps straight on their heads with the deep part at the back and the tassel over the left temple.
 - b. Some of the caps will not fit easily with all present hair fashions. Adjust your hair fashion accordingly.
 - c. Females should wear an all-white or light pastel dress, skirt or dress pants and light dress shoes. No flip-flops. Avoid large earrings and bracelets.
 - d. Males should wear white shirts or light colored collared shirts, dark background necktie, dress pants, dark shoes and dark socks. No sneakers, tennis shoes, boots, flip flops or other such footwear will be allowed. All shirts are to be buttoned and collars inside the gown.
4. When you receive your cap and gown, hang it up! Wrinkles do not come out when the gowns stay in the bags. **Do not iron your gown.**
5. During the ceremony:
 - a. When crossing the stage, walk briskly.
 - b. Posture: straight – heads up – proud appearance – smile – show a sense of pride.
 - c. Spacing: 6 to 8 feet – while walking.
 - d. Stand for the National Anthem. Gentlemen remove their caps.
6. All Howard County School System policies and school rules will remain in effect and will be enforced. Please do not jeopardize your privilege of participating in graduation. Listen! Pay attention! If you do not cooperate during practices, you will not be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony.
7. Each graduate will receive 8 graduation tickets. **If you need extra tickets, you must submit a written request to Mrs. Burdick, Principal's Secretary, by Thursday, May 14, 2009.** Any requests received after May 14th will not be accepted.
8. There will be a professional photographer photographing each graduate as their diploma is awarded. Information will be available on the school's website (marriottsridge.net). There will also be a professional videographer. An order form for the video/dvd will be available in the front office and at graduation practices.
9. **Handicapped parking requests must be submitted in writing to Mrs. Burdick by Thursday, May 14, 2009.** Any requests received after that date will not be accepted.
10. **HCPSS employees wishing to present the diploma to their student must submit a request in writing to Mrs. Burdick by May 14, 2009 no later than 3 pm.**
11. Questions: Contact Mrs. Rashid, Graduation Coordinator at 410-313-5568.

