

## **2023 Dothan High School Graduation Ceremony Guidelines**

1. Graduation will be held **Saturday, May 20, at 8:00 am at the Amphitheater at The Crossing At Big Creek**, 11295 US-231, Cottonwood, AL 36320.
2. Graduates are required to be in line no later than 7:00 am.
3. The gates will open at 7:00 am for guests and will close promptly at 8:00 am.
4. Each graduate will be given 8 tickets. Every attendee (including small children) must have a ticket.
5. Attending family and friends will need to bring folding chairs or blankets for seating.
6. **Graduate Dress Code**: All ladies are required to wear a light-weight dark dress with a low collar or dark pants and a white button up shirt and dark shoes. Heels are not recommended as you will be walking in grass. All gentlemen are required to wear a white dress shirt, solid dark tie, dark dress pants, and dark dress shoes. This is a school event and the school system dress code is in effect. If you do not meet the dress code requirements, you will not be permitted to participate in the ceremony. No Jeans, no flip flops, no tennis shoes.
7. No chewing gum on stage. No cell phones.
8. Caps and gowns are to be worn for the graduation ceremony. Wear the cap squarely on the head with the tassel over the right side. **CAPS CANNOT NOT BE DECORATED. IF YOU DECORATE YOUR CAP YOU WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN GRADUATION.** The only cords or stoles which may be worn are those issued/approved by the school.
9. All school rules apply for graduation day. Any student who violates any school or dress code rule will be removed and not allowed to participate in graduation.
10. Please respect the rights of ALL family members to hear the name of their graduate being called.
11. Graduates only receive a diploma cover when they walk across the stage. Graduation gowns are rented and must be returned to GradPro. When the gown is returned, the student will receive the actual diploma. Instructions for returning the gown will be given at graduation practice. Any misbehavior during the ceremony will result in your diploma being held pending a meeting with administration.
12. All graduates participating in the graduation ceremony are required to be at both practices. Graduation tickets will be issued to each graduate and the graduation lineup will be finalized. If you do not practice, you will not participate in graduation.
13. Most importantly, this is your graduation that you have worked toward for many years. Please make this ceremony an experience that you will be proud of, because you deserve it.
14. At the first practice (at DHS) graduation tickets will be issued. **Fees will be checked and if all fees are not paid, you will not receive your tickets.** You will need to return at a later time (see below) to pay fees and pick up your tickets.

## Seniors 2023

### Important Dates and Reminders

<b>Wednesday, April 12, 2023:</b>	<b>FAFSA Graduation Requirement Deadline</b>
<b>Friday, April 14, 2023:</b>	<b>DHS Prom</b>
<b>Tuesday, April 18, 2023:</b>	<b>Senior Awards Ceremony - 9:00 a.m.</b>
<b>Tuesday, May 2, 2023 :</b>	<b>Cap and Gown Distribution</b>
<b>Thursday, May 11, 2023:</b>	<b>Begins Senior Exam Week (11th and 12th - Makeups = 15th)</b>
<b>Friday, May 12, 2023:</b>	<b>Deadline to pay any outstanding fees</b>
<b>Monday, May 15, 2023:</b>	<b>Final Grades Due for Seniors</b>
<b>Monday, May 15, 2023:</b>	<b>Baccalaureate at Ridgecrest Baptist Church - 6:00 p.m.</b> <b>*More Information Below</b>
<b>Wednesday, May 17, 2023:</b>	<b>Mandatory Graduation Practice 8:30 a.m.</b> <b>Convocation Center (Graduation Tickets</b> <b>will be distributed - if fees are paid). Plan to be here for an</b> <b>extended period of time.</b>
<b>Wednesday, May 17, 2023:</b>	<b>1:00 - 2:30 p.m. Fees collected and tickets distributed.</b> <b>Convocation Center Lobby</b>
<b>Friday, May 19, 2023:</b>	<b>Mandatory Graduation Practice - 8:30 a.m.</b> <b>The Crossing at Big Creek</b> <b>11295 US-231, Cottonwood, AL 36320</b> <b>*BRING WATER and WEAR SUNSCREEN</b>
<b>Saturday, May 20, 2023:</b>	<b>DHS Graduation</b> <b>8:00 am (seniors arrive and in line by 7:00 am)</b> <b>11295 US-231, Cottonwood, AL 36320</b>

\*Baccalaureate is not required. This is a special ceremony hosted for graduates by Ridgecrest Baptist Church. If you choose to participate, you will need to:

- Line up by 5:30 p.m. (when you enter the church, walk down the hallway to your left - we will line up in the order of arrival).
- Wear your cap and gown.