

# New Manchester High School



Principal, Tekmekia Gilchrist  
Assistant Principal, Michael Hopping  
Assistant Principal/AD, Scott Long  
Assistant Principal, Michael Moffett  
Assistant Principal, Catherine Westbrook

Dear Graduate and Parent/Guardian:

Congratulations on what is about to be a tremendous milestone for you and your family. Graduation is a special accomplishment that is the culmination of many years of hard work, dedication and sacrifice. An honor of such magnitude deserves a very special ceremony. For this reason, the class of 2020 will hold graduation at the **New Manchester High School Jaguar Stadium on July 22, 2020 beginning at 8:00 A.M.** In preparation for this grand occasion, I would like to share with you important procedures regarding the graduation ceremony. This year has been unlike any other, beginning with an abrupt and non-traditional end to the school year. However, it is still the goal of New Manchester High School to give each member of the Class of 2020 a ceremony that appropriately celebrates the accomplishments of such a deserving senior class. Following are some important dates, times and expectations as we prepare for the ceremony:

- GRADUATION PRACTICE** Monday, July 20 at 9:00 A.M. -12:00 P.M.  
Attendance at practice in its entirety is **MANDATORY** for all who are participating in the graduation ceremony. Please bring your cap and gown for picture.
- GRADUATION PHOTOS** Individual graduate photos will be taken professionally during the graduation ceremony. All photos may be purchased online at [Cady.com](http://Cady.com) following the ceremony.
- GRADUATION CEREMONY** Wednesday, July 22, 2020 at 8:00 A.M. **Graduates must report to their assigned Fieldhouse parking lot or Cafeteria/Auxiliary parking lot no later than 7:00 A.M.** to be signed in and lined up for the ceremony. Graduates are to leave any valuables with their parents or in their car. Graduates will not be permitted to return inside the building after the ceremony. Graduates must have their cap and gown with them and be dressed appropriately to participate in the ceremony.
- CEREMONY ATTIRE** Graduates are expected to follow a dress code for the graduation ceremony. Ladies are asked to wear a dress or skirt that does not hang below the hem of the graduation gown and dark shoes. Please do not wear high-heeled shoes. Flat shoes are recommended for safety and comfort. Gentlemen are asked to wear a white, collared dress shirt, dark tie (optional), dark colored dress pants and dark shoes. All graduates will be provided with a mask at graduation practice to be worn at practice and during parts of the ceremony.
- Please remember to bring all parts of your cap and gown for the ceremony (cap, gown, tassel, NM stole, honor cords and stoles). No decoration is allowed on graduation caps. Graduates may only wear cords and stoles that have been awarded by school organizations.
- TICKETS** Due to social distancing requirements because of COVID-19, all students will receive **two (2) tickets** to distribute to their guests of graduation. **ALL guests must have a ticket to enter the stadium, regardless of age.** No extra tickets will be sold or distributed. The allotted tickets will be handed out at the end of graduation practice. Only those graduates who attend graduation practice will receive tickets. The ceremony will be Live-streamed.

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## EXPECTATIONS

The graduation ceremony is a formal event where we ask that all participants act in good judgement and consideration for others. The ceremony is intended to be a celebration and recognition of all students who have worked for this honor.

## COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

Graduates will be separated into two groups upon arrival at practice and for the ceremony. Those two groups will wait in a designated location inside at the **Fieldhouse parking lot and Cafeteria/Auxiliary parking lot** where they will be 6 feet apart until we move to the stadium for practice and the ceremony.

Graduates will be provided with a keepsake mask to wear at practice and during the ceremony.

Graduates will receive only TWO (2) guest tickets for the ceremony to allow for a smaller audience that will have appropriate space to practice social distancing in the seating area.

Guests are encouraged to wear a mask. Guests should plan to practice social distancing by sitting six feet apart in the marked area of the stadium bleachers.

The graduation ceremony is intended to be a celebration for **all** graduates. We ask that guests refrain from bringing items that may block the view of other guests or items that serve to distract from or disrupt the ceremony. ***Items prohibited at the graduation ceremony include balloons, banners, signs, fireworks, confetti, lasers and artificial noise makers (air horns, shakers, etc.).***

When the graduation ceremony is concluded, graduates will recess out of the stadium as they entered. Guests will not be permitted to enter the track or field at any time before, during or after the ceremony and must exit the stadium in the same manner they entered. Guests may greet and congratulate their graduate outside the stadium in the parking lot.

Thank you for your participation and cooperation in such an important and momentous occasion.

Sincerely,

*TGilchrist*

Tekmekia Gilchrist, Principal