

April 7, 2010

Dear Seniors and Parents,

With graduation quickly approaching, we want to apprise you of the pertinent dates and procedures to end the school year and your career at Sion in a spectacular fashion.

College Acceptances: You should have heard from all of your colleges now with either delight or disappointment. As you know, you need to make a decision by May 1st and notify the school of your choice. Equally important, however, is the expectation that you notify the schools that have accepted you that you will not be attending. Many of them have Wait Lists they are eager to pull from as places open up, so as soon as a school has been eliminated, please do them the courtesy of letting them know. A survey will be filled out the week of April 19th, which will include acceptances, scholarships and your final decision. Please come ready to fill this out. Notify Ms. Westenfeld of any other scholarships received later (include verification) by April 28th as well.

Final Exams: Seniors not in an AP class and who are not exempt from a particular exam are expected to report, on time, to their scheduled finals. Exams are May 12th and 13th. Exemptions and attendance will be posted on the senior bulletin board at 3:00 on May 10th. Please check the website for exam locations and times.

AP Exams: AP exams begin Monday, May 3rd. Students are not required to attend any regular classes on the day they are taking an AP exam. Locations and exam times will be posted on the website.

Senior Service Project Reports: Congratulations! All Senior Service Projects should have been completed by this time. These young women did exceptional work in our community, and we are proud of their efforts to live this Sion tradition of service. However, if for some reason your Senior has not met this graduation requirement, we will be communicating with you. If you have any questions, feel free to email Ms. McDermott, the Senior Service Project Coordinator: mmcdermott@ndsion.edu.

Service Hour Graduation Requirement: Seniors need to have completed 100 hours of service in order to graduate, receive their diploma, and have transcripts forwarded to their college of choice. Seniors should complete these hours and report them to our Service Learning Coordinator, Jessica Hull, by April 16th.

Awards Assembly: The Awards Assembly on May 26th will begin at 8:15 AM. ***Students are to dress appropriately (similar to what you might wear to your worship service).*** Seniors are required to attend and parents are most welcome.

Books: check the website and listen to the announcements for additional information.

Book/Fee Payments: Seniors who received books and/are taking second semester classes which require payment or a fee should take care of this immediately. Diplomas are held until **ALL** financial responsibilities are met. This includes tuition, athletic uniforms, library books, AP fees, car fines, hot lunch debts, etc. Payments may be sent to Jenny VanBebber at Locust.

Senior Overnight Retreat, May13-14th: A permission form to attend the retreat and a list of "what to bring" will be posted on Mrs. Pino-Dressman's faculty webpage after April 15th and must be returned to the campus ministry office by Thursday, April 29th. Buses will leave Sion at 3:00 PM on Thursday, May 13th and will return by 12 noon on Friday, May 14th. Our retreat will be at Prairie Star Ranch in Williamsburg, Kansas and all students must ride the bus to and from the retreat.

Thursday, April 29th, Mother/Daughter Mass and Luncheon: Mothers may arrive in the Original Grande Salle after 10:00 a.m. to save a seat for their daughters. At 10:10, Seniors will be dismissed from class and Mass will begin shortly after 10:15 a.m. followed by a luncheon in the New Grande Salle.

Last Days: Monday, May 10 and Tuesday, May 11 are **required days** for Seniors. Hours will be counted towards attendance totals. We will have graduation practice at school on Tuesday, May 11 (see below for additional information). Exams will begin Wednesday morning at 8:00 AM. Check the website for times and locations.

GRADUATION DRESSES

If your dress needs alterations, please have them made as soon as possible. Remember to take your shoes when you are having your dress hemmed and make sure the dress is pressed after the alterations.

Accessories: Each graduate is to wear the graduation dress, **an opaque slip**, white dress shoes (not flip-flops, tennis shoes, etc.) and simple jewelry (if you choose to wear it). No other accessories will be allowed. Any visible tattoos must be covered with flesh-colored-concealer. Visible body piercings must be removed.

Approval is at the discretion of the graduation sponsors.

GRADUATION TICKETS

This year the seniors will be picking up their graduation tickets and announcements after school on Wednesday, April 28th in the OGS. Each senior will pick up 11 tickets. **Note: be sure to put your tickets in a safe place as they cannot be replaced, and each person attending graduation needs a ticket.** Please trade amongst your friends if you need additional tickets.

GRADUATION PRACTICES

We will have Graduation Practice on Tuesday, May 11 promptly at 8:00 AM at Sion. This is mandatory and counts toward school hours.

Monday, May 24th, 11:30 Prayer Service and Rehearsal for Mass: All Seniors will gather in prayer for our only rehearsal which will take place at St. Thomas More Church, 11822 Holmes Road, Kansas City, MO 64131. Attendance is required and if everyone is on time we should be out before 12:30. A seating chart for graduation will be available on the Pino-Dressman faculty webpage by May 17th.

Thursday, May 27th immediately following brunch, will be our only practice in Yardley Hall. Attendance is required. This should end by 3:00 PM if everyone comes directly from the brunch. Your crownbearer should be at this practice and must have supervision other than the graduating senior. We cannot begin practice until everyone is present. Your crownbearer should meet you there. ***Do not*** plan to pick him/her up yourself. Please come directly to Yardley Hall – ***do not go home and change.***

GRADUATION DAY

Notre Dame de Sion's Graduation Ceremony is a tradition that began with the first graduating class in 1923. The first graduation inaugurated ceremonies that have become tradition for nearly 87 years. As on June 11, 1923, we begin graduation day with a celebratory Mass, followed by a brunch and the graduation ceremony. The young women wear formal white dresses and carry four red roses, one symbolizing each year of high school. Celeste Greenlee, class of 1978, and Amy Altergott, class of 1993, will crown all graduates. However, a mother of a graduate who is an alumna of the school is invited to crown her own daughter. Out of respect for our traditional ceremony, we ask that those attending refrain from inappropriate behaviors such as yelling, ringing bells, whistling, using air horns etc. There are very few "formal" high school graduations remaining in our country today and we strive to continue to preserve this fine tradition left to us by the Sisters of Sion. We appreciate you and your family joining us in the preservation of these beautiful and traditional graduation day celebrations.

Graduation Mass will be held at St. Thomas More Church, 11822 Holmes Road, Kansas City, MO 64131. **Please remember your dress.** If you wish, you may change into your dress when you arrive at the church, but should arrive no later than 9:00 AM if you choose to do so. We will be lining up for the processional into church at 9:15 AM. All guests are welcome to attend the Mass. A group photograph will be taken immediately after Mass.

Brunch will be at the Ritz Charles, 9000 West 137th Street. Please arrive by 11:00 AM; serving begins at 11:15 AM. Each family has three complimentary reservations. Additional guests are welcome at \$23.00 per person. See the enclosed order form for additional information.

Crownbearers: One crownbearer will be on stage for every two graduates. The crownbearers should be 4-12 years old and may be boys or girls. Dressy church clothes are considered appropriate attire. Girls do not need to be in white. Return the enclosed sheet about your crownbearer to Ms. McDermott's office by May 3rd. Crownbearers and their supervisor **do not** need tickets for graduation as they will remain backstage throughout the ceremony.

Scrapbook Video of your class will be shown at the brunch. A copy of this video may be purchased. Please return the enclosed order form with payment and a copy will be available for you to pick up that day. Submit pictures of you and your classmates immediately to Paula Bustamante, Kelly Gude, Sadie McCue, or Maria Milazzo.

Photographs: Besides the group class photo taken after Mass, another photo will be taken at graduation as each senior receives her diploma. A proof of each of these photos will be mailed to your home with the option to place an order. In addition, DeCloud Studio will be available at the Carlsen Center on a first come basis beginning at 5:30 PM and continuing after the ceremony until 9:00 PM to take pictures (individual, graduate and crownbearer, a family group, etc.) These photographs must be pre-ordered and pre-paid. See the enclosed order form. Checks need to be made and sent to DeCloud Studio.

Graduation Practice at Yardley Hall will begin immediately after brunch. We will try to be finished by 3:00 PM. That depends on you. Remember, crownbearers should be present along with a supervisor back stage. Please come directly after the brunch – do not go home and change or pick up your crownbearer!

The Graduation Ceremony on May 27th in Yardley Hall at Johnson County Community College at the corner of College & Quivira, will be at 7:00 PM. Graduates must be backstage and lined up by 6:45 PM. Doors for admission will be open at 6:30 PM. **Crownbearers and their chaperone, if needed, should also arrive by 6:45 PM. They will remain backstage until after the ceremony, and therefore will not need an admission ticket.**

Diploma: During the graduation ceremony you will be handed an empty diploma case. Immediately after the recessional, diplomas will be handed out backstage in exchange for your crown. **Diplomas will be held for any inappropriate behavior on stage.** Should it be necessary, a meeting with parents, student and Administration will be required before the diploma is released. Diplomas will also be held for financial obligations or any unfinished "business" with school, including insufficient number of service hours.

Video: A video production company will film the Mass, brunch and graduation ceremony. Please see the enclosed order form for details.

We hope this summary is helpful. We look forward to enjoying commencement with you and all the events leading up to the ceremony. If you have any other questions please contact one of the senior sponsors.

Sincerely,

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