



Fernandina Beach High School
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Chris Webber
Principal
Meredith Lane
Assistant Principal

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Class of 2021, Parents, and Guardians,

I wanted to take a moment to update you on graduation, graduation fees and changes to the end of the year requirements for the Senior class.

As you already know, our graduation ceremony will take place on June 7, 2021 at 9:00 AM on Pirate Field (football field at FBHS). Every year, each graduating senior must pay a graduation fee. Traditionally, this fee covers the expenses we incur from the rental of the UNF arena and other miscellaneous expenses associated with the graduation ceremony. This year, even with hosting the graduation ceremony on our campus, we will have expenses to cover. Below, I have broken down the expenses that we incur for this ceremony.

Stage and Chair Rentals - \$4,100.00
Live Stream Ceremony - \$7,100.00
Audio - \$2,000.00
Security/Paramedics – \$800.00
Programs, diplomas, diploma covers, cords, flowers, etc. - \$4,900.00
Total - \$18,900
Graduation Fee of \$75.00 x 220 graduating seniors - \$16,500.00
Difference of \$2,400.00 that the school pays for.
*Please note: If a Senior chooses not to walk at graduation, they are not required to pay the graduation fee.

As you can see, with the graduation fees we are able to cover most of our expenses and give our seniors and families the best graduation ceremony possible.

Lastly, I would like to also address the reason why this year's senior class is not able to get out of school prior to the last day which is June 4, 2021. The State of Florida Auditor General conducted an audit of the 2018-2019 school year and found that we were short on instructional minutes because the senior class did not come to school for approximately 10 days prior to the last day of school. Due to this shortage of instructional minutes, we were cited, and we had to take corrective actions. The corrective actions that were put in place were to keep all students in school until the last day of school. The corrective action took place with the class of 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, that class was virtual at the end of the school year.

We understand that the class of 2021 is not receiving the same benefits that previous graduating classes have and we are sorry for that. However, the class of 2021 is resilient, and I know that we can all keep our eye on the big picture, which is GRADUATION! We are proud of our seniors and we cannot wait to celebrate you on June 7!

Please feel free to contact me directly at (904) 261-5713 or via email at webberch@nassau.k12.fl.us.

Sincerely,

Chris Webber
Principal