

Howdy, Texan Class of 2020!

We are excited about our very special graduation ceremony at Texas Motor Speedway on May 26 at 7:00 PM! What a grand venue to celebrate such a special group of people!

I cannot wait to see you all on this special day! You have worked hard for many years, and you have overcome unimaginable circumstances. Your character and positive spirit define you as a class. Thank you for meeting these challenges and not allowing the obstacles to prevent you from crossing the “finish line” to your high school career.

You have received information about the general logistics of the graduation ceremony in a previous School Messenger. The purpose of this communication is to go over things in greater detail.

Please note: While the ceremony takes place at Texas Motor Speedway, it is not a “race-type” event. TMS officials have made it extremely clear that they expect all of us to abide by certain rules and procedures. Like the expectations and guidelines for all previous graduation ceremonies held at the UNT Coliseum, TMS requires us to comply with those same rules, as well as those specific to Texas Motor Speedway.

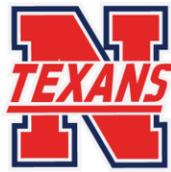
In addition to the answers to some frequently asked questions below, the four NISD high school principals will host a Facebook Live to cover graduation information immediately following Dr. Warren’s 6 PM Facebook Live Event on Wednesday, May 20.

How do I obtain my tickets?

- Each student will receive two car passes. Each pass is good for one car. Therefore, two cars per family are allowed.
- Texan Counselors will distribute car passes and name cards to seniors at NHS on **May 22, from 3 PM to 7 PM** in the West drive through lane near Texan Gym.
- Students must present their IDs or another form of identification to school officials in order to receive their tickets, and they will need to sign for receipt of tickets.

May we rent RVs, trailers or other similar type vehicles?

- No. TMS officials will not allow vehicles over 8'6" tall, and vehicles must fit into a regular parking space

***Are observers allowed to rent a suite or sit in the stands?***

- No. TMS officials expect all family members of students who are graduating to remain in their vehicle throughout the ceremony.

Are bathroom facilities provided?

- There are some facilities. However, they are very limited.

Is it "OK" if the graduate brings his/her cell phone to "capture the moment" during the ceremony?

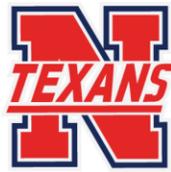
- As with all previous NHS graduation ceremonies, all cell phones and personal items must remain with family members or kept in their vehicles.

May we purchase concessions?

- Concessions will not be available. TMS officials informed us that families are allowed to bring food items that conform to NISD guidelines (no tobacco, alcohol, etc.).
- Each student will receive a bottled water at the ceremony. Students will not be allowed to bring food or drinks to the graduation ceremony.

Who manages the parking and how do we know where to go?

- Vehicles arriving early for NHS graduation will remain in a holding area until one hour before our ceremony, at which time TMS staff will allow them to enter the infield.
- Once you drive onto the infield, TMS officials will direct you to the parking area. Vehicles with the graduate in the car (student ticket) will pull into the student parking area on the left. Vehicles without a graduate in the car (parent ticket) will pull in to the right to park in the parent parking area.
- Remember, family members who arrive in a vehicle with the graduate may remain in this vehicle to watch the event. The graduate parking area has excellent views of Big Hoss (the largest television screen in the world).

***How will students know where to go and what to do?***

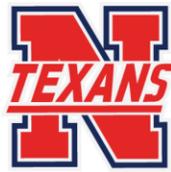
- When students park, they will proceed to a gate where they will pass through metal detectors and be checked for prohibited items prior to arriving to their staging area. We are preparing maps that will help show this route.
- NHS staff will be on hand to direct the students to their initial staging (line-up) area in a very large garage that affords ample space for social distancing. Once all students have been staged and a few minutes before 7:00 PM, students will proceed from this garage, in lines, to the seating areas. Staff members, SROs, counselors and administrators will be there to make certain students know where to report.
- Students will not have a rehearsal; however, we will make the ceremony very easy for you and will guide you through the process.

May I stay afterwards to get photos?

- TMS officials informed us that as soon as the graduation ceremony has finished, they expect students to get into their cars and leave immediately. Group gatherings and other photos must be taken outside the stadium and offsite.
- Flash Photography, the same photographer we have partnered with for the past several years, will be taking photos of seniors as they pass the finish line. These photos will be available for purchase. Flash Photography will send information to the email address of Guardian 1 listed during the registration process.

Will I see my graduate in person, as he/she gets his/her diploma?

- Guests will view the live stream of the ceremony, including each graduate's walk across the finish line, from their vehicles on Texas Motor Speedway's Big Hoss, the largest television screen in the world.
- We understand that there may be questions about the possibility of purchasing a video of the event. The ceremony will stream on YouTube (see below for link). Should we receive information about purchasing a recording of the event, we will send it to families as soon as we receive it.
- For those who cannot attend graduation in person, the presentation will also be available for people who cannot attend via a live video stream online.
<https://www.nisdtx.org/cms/One.aspx?portalId=232201&pageId=23820616>
- Family/friends must remain in their cars to watch the presentation on the screen and will tune their radios to 97.7 FM for the broadcast.

***What is the dress code?***

- Students must wear graduation regalia: red gown, red mortarboard (cap), tassel, NHS white stoles, and approved honor cords and stoles.
- Students will receive a custom-made (by Jostens), commemorative mask.
- Students may not decorate their graduation caps masks. They are to remain in original, new condition. This ceremony is the most important activity we have during the school year, and we have to make sure that nothing takes away from that experience.
- Students may wear school appropriate, casual, lightweight clothing under their gowns (as the weather is likely to be hot) and shoes that will allow the students to walk safely on uneven pavement.

Does my student have to wear the mask?

- Yes; however, students will remove the mask for their photo at the finish line.
- Jostens created a custom commemorative mask for each student, matching their regalia and complete with the NHS Logo. This mask will be required as part of your regalia.
- NHS Staff members will distribute the masks after students pass through the security area.

What if my student has special needs?

- Please make sure that your student's assistant principal is aware of any special needs your student has so that we can make proper arrangements.
- TMS will guide students with special needs to a specific parking area where a staff member will be able to meet them.
- If students need assistance walking to the staging area, TMS officials indicated that they have mobile carts to take students to the seating areas. An NHS staff member will accompany the student.

We are grateful for everyone who has come together to bring this important event to the spectacular Texas Motor Speedway. We look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday, May 26!

Sincerely,

Carrie Jackson



Principal
Northwest High School