

# WSA Grad Guide 2020

## Important Dates:

- **Wednesday, March 25:** Deadline for ordering caps and gowns on the dedicated local Jostens website, <https://RRGrad.com> Families can also order extra tassels, and other graduation merchandise, including announcements. (**PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE:** do **not** try to shop at <https://www.jostens.com/> This site is **not** set up to accommodate purchases for West Sound Academy graduations.)
- **Monday, April 20:** Parents email 20 photos of their students, birth to 12<sup>th</sup> grade, to Brandie Robbins for slideshow.
- **April 27 - May 1:** Caps and gowns are delivered to West Sound Academy by our local Jostens representative, then distributed to seniors. Announcements and other Jostens items ordered by families are shipped directly to students' homes.
- **Tuesday, May 19:** College Declaration Day for all seniors at the all-school assembly at 11:00 a.m. Seniors announce where they will be attending college and sign the pennant of their new school. Attendance is mandatory.
- **Friday, May 22:** Rehearsal for all seniors, 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m., House of Awakened Culture, Suquamish.
- **Friday, May 22:** 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Commencement Exercises, 7:00 p.m., House of Awakened Culture, Suquamish.

## A note on "the last day of school"

The last day of school for a senior student is the date of their last scheduled final exam or last scheduled IB exam. Please note that IB exams are scheduled from the afternoon of Tuesday, May 5, through the morning of Friday, May 22.

## Commencement Details:

- **Commencement** – Seniors should be at the House of Awakened Culture in Suquamish on **Friday, May 22, no later than 6:30 p.m.**  
**Commencement will start promptly at 7:00 p.m.**
- **Rehearsal** – There will be a mandatory rehearsal for seniors the afternoon of Friday, May 22, at the House of Awakened Culture, from **12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m.** We'll set up chairs for Commencement first, then move on to doing the rehearsal.
- **Graduation** – This will be a closed event for the WSA community only. Parents should email [frontdesk@westsoundacademy.org](mailto:frontdesk@westsoundacademy.org) with the names of all families and friends who will be coming to graduation. *Names will be checked at the door.* **Please submit your list of attendees no later than 3 p.m. on Wednesday, May 20.**

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- **Announcements** – If you wish, you can purchase announcements on the local Jostens website, <https://RRGrad.com>. (Click 'Graduation Supplies' then choose 'West Sound Academy' under 'Please Select Your SCHOOL'.) **Announcements ordered from Jostens will be shipped directly to families.** These are printed as ordered, then shipped; **delivery takes about 10 days.** Keep in mind that parents of seniors usually have **wallet-size photos** of their graduating senior printed so that one can be placed in each announcement. These can be from studio portraits done by professional photographers, or just a print of a favorite snapshot. It is customary for seniors to order **name cards** from Jostens (either regular or foil border) to enclose with the announcements to identify the graduate to the recipient.
- **Caps & gowns** – Purchase these on the Jostens website, <https://RRGrad.com>, **no later than Wednesday, March 25.** Caps and gowns will be delivered to the school the week of April 27- May 1. The caps and gowns are navy blue, tassels are navy blue and white, and stoles are white. Elizabeth and Susan will have the seniors try the gowns on for size, to make sure they fit properly. It will be the responsibility of the senior (and/or the senior's parent) to bring the cap and gown to the House of Awakened Culture, ready to wear for Commencement. The gowns come folded and packaged from Jostens, and will need to be ironed, using a low-temperature setting, **no steam.** Care instructions are: **"Do not wash. Do not dry-clean."** In other words: be careful, and keep these clean!
- **Slideshow** – Brandie Robbins will prepare a slideshow of photos of the seniors (babyhood through 12<sup>th</sup> grade) to be at graduation on May 22 before the ceremony. **Seniors' parents need to send in 20 photos of their graduates no later than Monday, April 20.** Please email photos, digital format (jpg) preferred, to Brandie at [brobbins@westsoundacademy.org](mailto:brobbins@westsoundacademy.org) The photos will be displayed on a large screen, so they need to be good quality images with high resolution.
- **Yearbooks and Mud Pie** – Yearbooks will be handed out to seniors in mid-May. Seniors will receive their copy of Mud Pie on May 22, either at rehearsal or the night of graduation.
- **Senior group photo** – Before it's too late, we'll take another group photo of the Class of 2020 to put into a 5" x 7" frame - matching the other photos we have for the past eleven graduating classes, 2009-2019. We'll email this photo to all senior parents so everyone can have a memento of the class. WSA will be purchasing a frame from Lifetime Creations on Amazon, with 'West Sound Academy / Class of 2020' engraved on it. Email Susan if you would like information on ordering this frame for yourself.

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## Other Graduation Details:

- **Commencement Speaker** – Dr. DeAngela Burns-Wallace, former college administrator and foreign service officer for the US State Department, is currently the Secretary of Administration for the State of Kansas.
- **Music** – Paul Burback and WSA student musicians will provide music for graduation: fifteen minutes of music while guests are taking their seats, the processional and recessional for staff, Edward Elgar's *Pomp and Circumstance March* for the seniors, and another piece for the commencement program. There will be recorded music for the seniors' recessional - a song of the seniors' choice, approved by Barrie.
- **Honor cords** – These are purchased by the school and presented to graduates to wear at graduation, as appropriate. Light blue honor cords are worn by IB Diploma Candidates, and IB Diploma Course students wear white honor cords.
- **Gift books** – Each graduate is presented with a gift book along with their diploma. These contain pages from WSA faculty members prepared especially for each senior, then bound into books. Karen Mattick will be the coordinator for this project.
- **Diploma covers** – The diplomas are presented in diploma covers, purchased by WSA. Seniors will be asked to tell Catherine Freeman how they would like their name written on their diploma. Full first, middle and last name is the norm.
- **Senior speeches** – Seniors will be asked to prepare a brief (two-minute) speech to present at graduation. The content of all speeches will have to be approved by Barrie.
- **Ceremony / Programs** – The programs will list each graduate and where they are planning on attending college. **Parents should email this information to Susan; we want each student's listing on the program to be accurate.**
- **Photography** – Brandie Robbins will take photos at graduation. After she edits them, she will post them on an online gallery so that families can download individual images if they wish.
- **Newspaper coverage** – Susan will contact the local press: Kitsap Sun and Sound Publishing (North Kitsap Herald and other local papers). Susan will send both publications information about our graduating class several weeks before Commencement. There will be a full-page tribute to WSA's Class of 2020 in the North Kitsap Herald's annual graduation insert.