

**Stargate High School
Graduation Handbook
Class of 2019**



STARGATE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION HANDBOOK

INTRODUCTION

This *Handbook* provides specific information regarding activities and procedures to follow for the senior class. The Stargate staff looks forward with excitement to the senior activities for the Class of 2019, culminating with Graduation Ceremony at Macky Auditorium on Tuesday, May 21, 2019 at 6:00 pm.

All senior activities are a privilege. Students must be in good standing by meeting all graduation requirements, completing the Senior Capstone project, meeting all behavioral expectations, and clearing all financial obligations to participate in the ceremony. Students and their families will be notified if the student is in danger of losing senior activity/graduation ceremony privileges or if the student has not met the academic requirements to receive a diploma.

The students, staff, and parents have spent many hours planning these events and making this information available to you. These Stargate sponsored activities gather the senior class together throughout the year for information sharing, post-graduation planning, senior-only activities, celebrations, and traditional ceremonies such as the Senior Recognition Night and Graduation Ceremony.

If you have any questions regarding any of the activities or requirements, please consult Stargate's Senior Resources webpage.

<http://community.stargateschool.org/high-school/academics/senior-resources>

If you have questions regarding graduation requirements and student status, contact the counseling office.

STARGATE TRADITIONS

It is an exciting time for Stargate! This is the year that we will build the traditions for all graduating classes to follow. Because we believe that student voice and choice are important to creating lasting traditions, some decisions will be voted on by the senior class. Decisions are subject to administration approval. As these decisions about activities, graduation ceremony protocols, and other graduation facets are made, we will communicate them in a timely manner. Students are encouraged to attend all senior meetings and participate in the process.

SENIOR COUNSELING ONE ON ONE MEETING

Every senior will meet with his/her school counselor early in the fall semester to verify graduation requirements. Students and parents/guardians will be provided documentation detailing the credits required to graduate; this documentation must be signed and returned by September 28, 2018 to the student's counselor.

Students who fail one or more classes first semester senior year should set up an appointment with their counselor to explore credit recovery options.

SENIOR MEETINGS

Throughout the year, members of the senior class will meet to discuss important topics related to senior activities and graduation. These meetings will include information from Jostens (our graduation partner), post-secondary preparation, and senior activities. Senior meetings dates and times will be emailed to the senior class.

SENIOR RECOGNITION NIGHT

Graduates receiving scholarships, awards, and achievements of distinction will be honored at a celebratory event on May 16, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. at Stargate. All students and their families are encouraged to attend this special event.

SENIOR CHECK-OUT

Senior Check-Out will be on May 16, 2019, starting at 9:30 a.m. Students will make sure that all materials have been turned in, all academic requirements have been met, and all fees are paid during Senior Check-Out. Students will perform an initial graduation rehearsal, and will pick up their graduation caps and gowns after they have been cleared for check-out. Honor cords will be presented at the Senior Recognition Night.

CLASS OF 2019 GRADUATION

The graduation ceremony will be Tuesday, May 21 at 6:00 p.m. at Macky Auditorium, located on the University of Colorado, Boulder campus. Students should report to Macky no later than 2:00 p.m. Family and guests may enter the auditorium for seating at 5:00 p.m. An initial RSVP form will be sent out in January to help with the planning process and a final R.S.V.P. form will be emailed to families in early April to ensure we have adequate and appropriate seating space. Included in this form will be a request for accommodations for family members in need of special seating.

GRADUATION REHEARSAL

Seniors participating in the graduation ceremony are required to attend two graduation rehearsals. A preliminary rehearsal will take place during senior check-out. Final rehearsal will take place on the date of graduation at the venue.

GRADUATION RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the student's responsibility to satisfy all Stargate High School graduation requirements, including completion of required credits, completion and presentation of the Capstone project, and post-secondary plan survey (college, trade school, enlistment or employment). Students are required to complete their Senior Check-Out on May 16, 2019. Any fines or unpaid fees must be paid by the conclusion of Senior Check-Out on May 16, 2019.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Stargate's graduation requirements meet the Colorado Department of Education requirements and have been developed based on the entrance requirements of many colleges and universities, as well as through analysis of the components of a strong, academic high school curriculum. Students must successfully complete a minimum of 24 credits in order to graduate. The recommended credit requirements in the table below are offered to meet the entrance requirements for many of the nation's top colleges.

<u>Subject Area</u>	<u>Required Credits</u>
English	4
Math	4
Science	3 required, 4 recommended
Social Studies	3 required, 4 recommended
World Language	2 of the same World Language (3 recommended)
PE/Health	1
Elective	6
Adroit	1
Total	24

OUTSIDE COURSE CREDITS

Outside courses to be applied toward graduation credit must have the prior approval of the Administration and be completed no later than two weeks prior to the end of Seniors' Finals Week. Any results received after May 9, 2019 may not be counted toward graduation for that school year. In such cases, the student may apply for graduation from Stargate High School the following year.

GRADUATION CONDUCT

It is a privilege to participate in the graduation ceremony, and graduates will be expected to act in a dignified manner. Behaviors that reflect positively on the accomplishments of students and the importance of graduation are fully expected. Students must end the year in good disciplinary standing in order to participate in the graduation ceremony. Any behavior on the part of any student or group of students that disrupts the orderly flow of those events, which generally disrupts the school, or which has a negative impact on individual students, will not be tolerated. Pranks, hazing, vandalism, harassment, or any action that deviates from the normal acceptable behavior of the school day, will result in disciplinary and/or legal action on the part of the school and/or police department, including but not limited to graduation walking privileges. If administrative disciplinary action is warranted, attendance at the graduation ceremony may be withheld.

GRADUATION DRESS CODE

Cap and gown ordering will take place during Senior Meeting times in the early fall. Students participating in the graduation ceremony are required to wear a black gown, the mortarboard, the Stargate stole, and tassel. Appropriate clothing and shoes that adhere to the school dress code are required beneath the graduation attire. It is recommended that student shoe heel height should not exceed 1.5 inches due to the use of stairs in the ceremony.

Students may decorate the top face of their mortarboard cap. Decorations must be school appropriate, positive, and consistent with Stargate values.

MERIT DISTINCTION

Honor cords will be distributed at the Senior Recognition Night. Students may earn honor cords by participating in and meeting the requirements of nationally recognized organizations, e.g., National Honor Society, Quill and Scroll, Student Council, Tri-M, etc.

Stargate believes in recognizing all graduating seniors who achieve high levels of academic achievement as reflected in their cumulative, weighted grade point averages (GPA). Stargate recognizes seniors who qualify for graduation with the following standards-based achievement categories:

- Cum Laude: 3.9 - 4.19 (weighted GPA)
- Magna Cum Laude: 4.20 - 4.39 (weighted GPA)
- Summa Cum Laude: 4.4 and above (weighted GPA)

PRESENTATION OF DIPLOMAS

The student's legal name, not a nickname, will be announced as they receive their diploma.

SEATING ARRANGEMENTS

Audience seating is available on a first come, first serve basis. Please include special seating needs in the Graduation R.S.V.P. form. Members of the Stargate Board of Directors, School District Administration, and Stargate staff will be seated in chairs in a designated seating area.

GRADUATION SPEAKERS AND MUSICIANS

The school principal may serve as emcee for the event.

As we build our traditions, the senior class and staff will develop the graduation ceremony program. This will include determining speakers and musical presentations.

Speeches, music, and lyrics will honor and respect the dignity of the occasion. Speeches will be reviewed by the administration or a representative of administration one week prior to the graduation ceremony.

EARLY GRADUATION

Students looking to graduate early must meet all Stargate High School graduation requirements. Students planning to graduate one semester early must apply in writing to the principal and meet with their counselor by October 1st of their senior year to be eligible for early graduation. Students planning to graduate two semesters early must apply in writing to the principal and meet with their counselor by November 1st of their junior year. If a student chooses to graduate early and is no longer taking classes at Stargate, they will not be eligible for school sports or activities. Early graduates may participate in all graduation activities, including the ceremony.

MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR SENIOR YEAR

For many students, senior year brings with it a flood of emotions. There is excitement to participate in class activities, pride in accomplishment, and the nurturing of school spirit of younger students. It is also a time of great stress that comes with major life change. There is fear of the unknown, sadness about separating from lifelong friends, and pressure to meet all requirements.

In order to make the most of the senior year, we encourage you to:

- ★ **Get involved! Participate in senior activities.** These will be planned by members of the class and will be communicated upon approval by administration.
- ★ **Get your yearbook!** This is a chronicle of your senior year. Make sure you check the deadlines for ordering!
- ★ **Get help when you need it!** All those emotions you are feeling are normal. Sometimes you need a safe place to deal with them. Talk to a trusted adult. There are lots of people who care for you and understand the pressures of senior year.
 - Support Resources outside of Stargate:
 - [Colorado Crisis Services - coloradocrisisservices.org](http://coloradocrisisservices.org)
 - [National Suicide Prevention Lifeline](http://www.suicideline.com) 1-800-273-8255