



2022 AC FLORA GRADUATION INFORMATION

GRADUATION TIME/DATE/LOCATION

The 2022 AC Flora Graduation Ceremony will be held at 11:00 am on Friday, June 3rd at Memorial Stadium. Graduates should arrive at 10:15 am at the baseball gates and should find their seat on the field (they will be clearly marked). The stadium gates for guests will open at 10:30 am and all guests must be seated by 10:50 am. Gates will be closed at that time. Parking maps and other traffic details will be forthcoming. It is better to be early than to be late.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

Memorial Stadium is Richland School District One property and all school/district rules will apply. In addition, AC Flora/Richland One Administration, Richland One Security, and the Columbia Police Department will be on hand to ensure that graduation is a respectful and safe event. All school/district rules and policies regarding student/guest behavior will apply. As a reminder, Memorial Stadium is a non-smoking facility.

Please note that Memorial Stadium has a clear bag policy. This policy can be found on the district web site and the AC Flora web site. If you must bring a bag, please ensure that it meets the guidelines. In addition, all graduates and guests will walk through metal detectors upon entry to the stadium. Guests will enter via the main gates to the stadium and graduates will enter via the baseball gates after they have parked. School/district staff will be on hand to direct graduates and guests to the correct entrances. Guests should remain in their seats the entire time and there will be no standing along the fence at the base of the stands.

ARRIVAL/GUESTS/PARKING

When you arrive at Memorial Stadium, we request that you arrive in the same vehicle, or in as few vehicles as possible, to help with parking, safety, and accountability. Graduates will need to report to the baseball gates and guests will need to report to the main gates (this is the same entrance used for varsity football games). Upon completion of the ceremony, guests and graduates should promptly leave Memorial Stadium. Additional details about arrival logistics will be provided closer to graduation day.

TICKETS

Each graduate will receive eight paper tickets, and every guest must have a ticket—regardless of age. No guest will be allowed to enter the ceremony without a ticket and there will be no exceptions to this requirement. This includes babies, toddlers, and/or children of any age. Your ticket will indicate on which side (Home or Visitor) you will be sitting, and, upon arrival at Memorial, you will need to enter the home or visitor's side (as indicated on your ticket). Guests should sit in an available spot and remain seated for the duration of the ceremony.

ATTIRE/PERSONAL ITEMS

Graduate attire should be respectful and appropriate for the graduation ceremony. Graduation is a dignified and professional ceremony, and we expect all graduates to dress and act accordingly.

Due to the field at Memorial, graduates are required to wear shoes that do NOT have heels. Flats and wedges are acceptable. We know this may not be ideal, but heels will damage the turf and are not allowed. This rule is non-negotiable and there will be no exceptions. Again, wedges *are* perfectly fine to wear. Graduates should not bring or carry purses, cell phones, or other personal items with them during the ceremony. There is nowhere to store them.

If you arrive at the stadium and your graduation attire does not meet these guidelines, or if your cap/gown has been altered in any unapproved way, you will not be allowed to participate in the ceremony. Please note the guidelines for decorating your cap contained in this document that have also been previously communicated.

Students may only wear honor cords that are issued by AC Flora High School and/or Richland One. No cords or tassels that have been given/issued to you by any outside organizations (or any that have been custom-made by/for the graduate) may be worn during graduation!

As a gift to the Class of 2022, seniors may choose to decorate their cap. Caps must be decorated according to the *Cap Decorating Guidelines* found in this packet. Caps will be checked by administration upon arrival and graduates will not be allowed to enter the stadium if their cap does not meet the guidelines. Whether or not you are decorating your cap, we encourage you to try it on in advance to make sure that it will stay on your head for the duration of the ceremony. Please note that some hair styles may require the graduate to pin the cap to their hair in order for it to stay in place. Your tassel should hang to the right of the cap.

Hang your gown prior to graduation to eliminate any wrinkles. If you press the gown, please be sure to use a **cool iron** to avoid damaging the gown. DO NOT WASH IT! We do not have replacement gowns!

LIVE STREAM

Graduation will be live-streamed on the district's web site at www.richlandone.org. Multiple cameras will be used to ensure that every graduate will be seen as much as possible. Please note that the live stream link is not yet posted on the district's web site, but will be added in advance of the ceremony date/time.

BEHAVIOR

Only diploma covers will be presented during the ceremony. Students/guests who disregard the guidelines for appropriate behavior before, during and/or after the ceremony run the risk of not receiving their actual diploma, which will be mailed after the ceremony. Examples of inappropriate behavior include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. Calling out or cheering
- b. Inappropriate hand/body gestures
- c. Altering your graduation attire
- d. Throwing caps in the air
- e. Loud, inappropriate noises
- f. Waving to the crowd as you cross the stage
- g. Dancing across the stage
- h. Cell phones ringing
- i. Use of/under the influence of tobacco, vaping products, alcohol, drugs, or any other unauthorized/illegal substance

*In addition, all debts must be cleared, all after-school detention hours must be served, and all school-issued items must be returned before diplomas will be mailed. This is non-negotiable.

ADDITIONAL INFO/UPDATES

In the coming days we will be sending out parking maps, updates, clarifications, reminders, and additional information, so please be on the lookout. All information will be emailed to senior families, seniors, and posted on our web site.

CAP DECORATING

Please take into consideration the following rules and guidelines when decorating your 2022 graduation cap. This should be a positive experience for you and your family. We want to celebrate your achievements at Flora as well as what you will be doing after high school. We encourage you to be creative, unique, respectful, and positive as you decorate your cap. Failure to follow these rules will result in a replacement cap being given to you during commencement at your own cost (\$25)! Cap decorating is an optional experience.

****Administration reserves the right to disallow any cap design for any reason prior to, just before, or during the graduation ceremony. All decisions made by administration are final.****

Positive cap decorating ideas include, but are not limited to:

- Thanking a parent, grandparent, teacher, guardian
- Recognizing the branch of the military you will be joining
- Recognizing the college/university you will be attending
- Recognizing a club, class, sport, or other organization you are involved in
- Positive quotes/images
- Positive Flora-themed images/quotes
- Original artwork

General Cap Decorating Guidelines

- All decorations must be neat and organized. You may NOT simply write on top of your cap. It must be truly *decorated*.
- No offensive language, sayings, nicknames, pictures or lyrics on cap
- No objects such as signs, stuffed animals, bells, flowers, or any 3D object may rest on the cap. This includes lights.
- ALL decorations MUST lay FLAT on the cap. Nothing can lay perpendicular thus allowing us to see the decoration beyond eye level. Your cap must not block anyone's view.
- Your cap CANNOT make noise. No bells, horns, or anything that makes noise.
- No symbols, logos, words, sayings or any action that can be deemed as offensive to those in any culture. Remember, this is not just your ceremony but a ceremony you share with all of your classmates and their respective friends and family members!
- No symbols, logos, words, sayings, or actions that affiliate themselves with criminals, alcohol or drug paraphernalia, or any other illegal activity.
- No sexual or inappropriate references or innuendos.
- You may decorate the entire top of the mortarboard, but underneath and the headpiece should remain untouched and unaltered.
- The tassel must still be present on the cap. You may not alter your tassel in any way.

****If you have any questions about any intended information/images that you feel might be questionable, be sure to talk to an administrator before graduation. If you think your idea might be inappropriate, it probably is!****

We highly suggest you trace your cap onto cardboard and decorate the cardboard so that, if you make a mistake, you can start over with a new piece of cardboard. Please be sure to include a small hole for the tassel. After you decorate it, stick it to your cap with double-sided tape or Velcro tape. **We will not furnish new caps if you mess yours up decorating.** Please be sure before you decorate!

All caps will be reviewed prior to the graduation ceremony. AC Flora and/or Richland One Administration reserves the right to disallow anything that is not considered appropriate for the commencement ceremony for any reason. In order to encourage high standards of student conduct and behavior, administration will replace a student's cap if it is in violation of the guidelines. If this is the case, the student will be charged \$25 for the replacement cap.

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