



NORTHWESTERN HIGH SCHOOL

Home of the Trojans

Spring Commencement 2023

May 15, 2023

Dear graduates and families,

We are excited to celebrate with you during Spring Commencement. The ceremonies will be held on Friday, May 26, 2023, at the Winthrop University Coliseum, 1162 Eden Terrace, Rock Hill, SC 29733. The ceremony for South Pointe High School will begin at 10 a.m., Rock Hill High School at 2 p.m., and **Northwestern High School at 6 p.m.**

Our goal is to provide the best possible climate for each commencement ceremony. Every graduate is important and we believe that all graduates deserve a ceremony and environment which honors the significance of their achievements and this important milestone.

Live-streaming:

Each commencement ceremony will be professionally produced and streamed live on the Rock Hill Schools website at <http://www.rockhillschools.com/graduation>, on the Rock Hill Schools Facebook page, and on the Rock Hill Schools YouTube channel.

Entrance/Exit:

Guests should enter the Coliseum from the main entrance doors. Signs will be posted. Guests will have security checks, then be seated. The district clear bag

policy will be in effect. No signs or balloons are allowed, but families may bring flowers.

Guests are encouraged to plan for screening protocols for entry and arrive at least 45 minutes to an hour before the school's commencement ceremony in order to complete the security checks. Doors will open only one hour prior to the start time. Any late guests will be escorted to a special section of seating in order not to disturb the ceremony. The Coliseum doors will close fifteen minutes after the start of the ceremony; any guests arriving after this time will be turned away.

Graduates will be lined up at the school and escorted into the Coliseum from buses. At the end of the ceremony, graduates will recess and ride back to the school where their cars are parked. This is being done to limit graduate wait time, facilitate the organized entrance/exit of graduates, encourage efficient entrance/exit of guests, and allow more parking for guests. Any graduate or family with concerns about bus transportation should contact their school's principal.

Behavior:

Traditional expectations for graduate and guest behavior are in place. Over time, superintendents, principals, teachers, parents, and students have helped establish, revise, and improve our commencement procedures. The following set of common expectations and guidelines are in place just as they are in a normal year:

- Admission to the ceremony is by ticket only (Graduates will receive tickets at the mandatory graduation practice in F gym on Thursday, May 25th at 2:00 PM)
- Spectators should dress appropriately (no shorts, t-shirts, or tank tops). Schools will set a dress code for graduates.
- Spectators should not leave their seats to take pictures during the ceremony.
- Spectators and graduates should not clap, shout, or stand until all graduates have crossed the stage allowing each graduate's name to be heard.

To help ensure a safe, orderly, and dignified ceremony, security will be on duty. These officers will assist in preserving the graduation decorum and enforcing communicated guidelines.

Our goal is not to discourage the joy of the occasion; our goal is to recognize hundreds of students in the most dignified, respectful, and efficient way possible.

Graduation from high school is an important milestone for the seniors, their families, and each school. We believe maintaining decorum while honoring these graduates is important and appropriate.

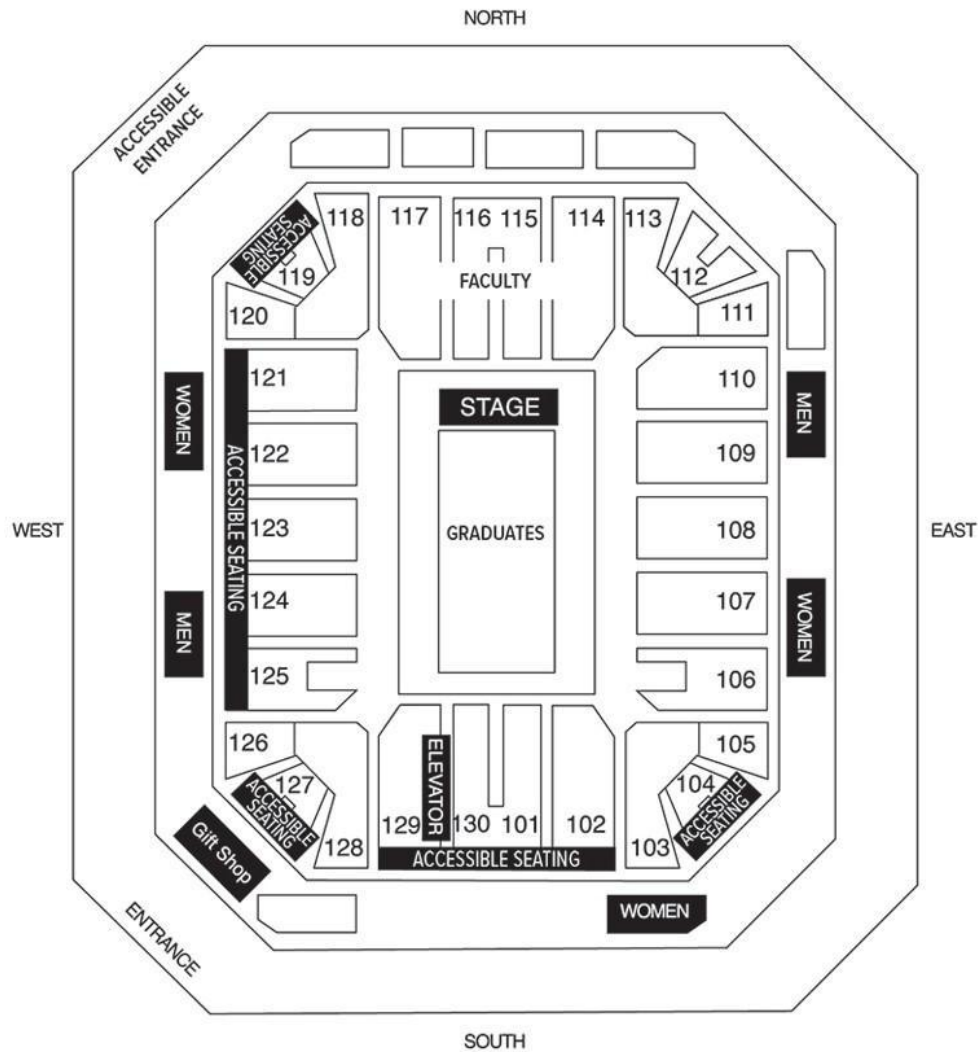
Parking:

Please see the attached parking map (and Coliseum seating map). Guest parking is free and available on a first-come first-serve basis. Accessible parking is in the North lot. Signs will be placed on campus identifying the ramp which leads to the accessible seating in the upper concourse. Golf cart shuttles will be available to anyone needing assistance to enter the Coliseum.



Vehicles parked on the street or in other nearby parking lots are subject to tow at the owner's expense.

Please review this floorplan of Winthrop Coliseum which shows accessible entrances & seating, exits, stage location, and restrooms.



We look forward to celebrating and honoring our graduates on this special day! Graduates will receive additional information this week regarding the mandatory practice (May 25th - 2:00 PM in F Gym) and other expectations.



Thank you,
Hezekiah Massey, III
Principal

TraditionNeverGraduates