

June 1, 2019

Dear Parents and Graduating Seniors:

In preparation for your final month at C.W. Baker and for our commencement ceremonies, I want to share some thoughts and guidance for these last few days and weeks. The next month is a busy and rewarding time as there are many events and activities happening – athletic contests, concerts, presentations, field trips, cumulative exams, and the Senior Ball. Two of the many important events are graduation and graduation rehearsal. Please mark your calendars for these two days.

Parents, please help in reminding your son/daughter of the importance of finishing the year in good standing. Students are tempted at this point to participate in senior “skip days.” Sometimes students tell their parents that “everyone does it,” or “it is only one day,” or “the school knows about it and it’s okay.” To be clear, we do not condone skip days – we discourage them. Our biggest priority is the safety of each of our students. We all can cite situations where students have been arrested or involved in serious or fatal car accidents that might not have happened if they were in school. Please help us send the right message.

Please be advised that we do not consider pranks in any form to be acceptable school behavior. We will not tolerate them, and consequences, including suspension, may be imposed if the situation warrants. Suspensions can span graduation, and a student may not be permitted to participate in the ceremony. We will prosecute any criminal mischief/trespassing/vandalism to the fullest extent of the law. Pranking is not a rite of passage, and we appreciate your help in reinforcing this message so we can end the year in the same positive way that it has been throughout the year.

Also, this year we will have representatives from BJK Photography (Best Eye) on site at the SRC Arena to take photos of your student as they cross the stage. They will have a table set up with information at the arena.

Friday June 21ST

- 9:00 AM: Senior Refreshments in the small gymnasium
- 9:30 AM: Graduation Rehearsal in the large gymnasium. This rehearsal **is mandatory**. Students who arrive late will be placed at the end of the line for diplomas. Rehearsal will take approximately one hour .
- 10:30 AM: Cap and Gown pick-up in the Wrestling Room. **Seniors who owe books, calculators, elevator keys, money, etc. will not receive their cap and gown until these obligations are met. Additionally, students with outstanding debt to the district will not be permitted to participate in the graduation ceremonies.**
- 11:30 AM Elementary School Walk Through-buses depart

Sunday June 23RD

- Commencement exercises will begin at 1:00 PM at the SRC Arena on the campus of Onondaga Community College.
- Students must report to the Building A between 11:15-12:15 PM. Students who arrive late will be placed at the end of the line for diplomas.
- Parking is available in the open lots next to the arena. Please plan ahead for potential traffic issues. ***Last year traffic caused a delay in the arrival of some families. Please plan accordingly. Please research other available routes to OCC.***
- There is plenty of available seating inside the arena – no tickets will be needed. Doors open to the SRC at 11:00 AM.
- Appropriate dress is defined as: **Men - a dress shirt, dress pants and regular shoes and socks (no white sneakers, sandals, shorts, warm-ups, etc.). Women - a dress, dress slacks or skirt and blouse. Comfortable, low-heeled shoes are recommended (no sneakers, shorts, warm-ups, or casual sandals/flip flops).** Please be aware that we reserve the right to remove a student from the procession if his or her attire is not appropriate.
- **Please remember that our commencement ceremony is a special occasion for all of our families.** We ask that seniors, parents and guests not bring items that take away from the ceremony. Several years ago a few parents brought air horns. It was very distracting and many families were upset because they could not hear their graduate's name announced as they crossed the stage. Additionally, please know that SRC staff asks that all guests remain in their seats for the ceremony. Please do not enter the floor to take pictures while students are preparing to walk the stage.
- Any student who attempts to participate in graduation under the influence of alcohol or drugs will not be permitted to do so. Parents will be notified immediately and requested to pick up their child. If parents cannot be reached, the local law enforcement agency will be asked to escort the student home.

Many people have worked hard to develop a dignified and special occasion for our graduates. **This is a shining moment for families; please respect these requests.** We look forward to a graduation that will be a source of pride for students, parents, community, and school staff members. The Class of 2019 has distinguished itself and deserves an outstanding commencement exercise. I look forward to sharing the day with all of you.

Sincerely,

Donald A. Root, Jr.

Principal

