J.W. MITCHELL HIGH SCHOOL

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Principal Jessica R. Schultz
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February 1, 2025

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The Class of 2025 proudly announces its graduation. The graduation ceremony will be held on **Saturday, June 7, 2025 at 8:30PM at the University of South Florida**. Though the ceremony begins at 8:30PM, students will report to the Sun Dome by 7:30PM. In order to uphold the dignity of our graduation ceremony and to meet increased security requirements, the following procedures will be followed by the University of South Florida Sun Dome and the Pasco County School District for all Senior and Graduation Activities:

1. Please mark your calendars now for two important events. The Night of Excellence for invited members of the Class of 2025 will be held on **Wednesday, April 23, 2025** at the JWMHS Gymnasium. The Senior Scholarship Night for invited members of the Class of 2025 will be held on **Thursday, May 22, 2025** in the JWMHS Gymnasium.
2. Senior Breakfast, a breakfast held for the senior students only, will be held on **Thursday, May 29th at Spartan Manor**. There is not a fee for this event, nor is there a ticket. This event will begin at 9AM. Dress for this event is business professional. Students should be dressed appropriately. Students who are in jeans, shorts, flip-fops, or any attire deemed not business professional will be turned away from this event and not admitted until they comply with the dress code.
3. Graduation Practice and Senior Check-out are mandatory. They will be held at JW Mitchell High School in the gymnasium on **Wednesday, May 28, 2025 from 8:25AM – 2:52PM and Friday, May 30, 2025 from 8:25AM – 2:52PM.** Any student who does not attend rehearsal may not be allowed to participate in the ceremony. Students should arrive at the school by 8:25AM and be ready to practice on time. **Students should not plan on leaving until 2:52PM. Students will not be allowed to leave any earlier than 2:52PM.**
4. During Graduation Practice and Checkout, students will be receiving a final notice of debts. These will be due on the second day of practice, **Friday, May 30th** PRIOR to receiving the cap and gown (which will be distributed only on May 30th at the end of practice).
5. Tickets are **NOT** required for entry into the commencement exercises. For seating, your party should arrive at the same time if you want to sit together.
6. Parking lots around the University of South Florida charge $13.00 for parking per vehicle. All of this will be done electronically via credit card. Cash will not be accepted.
7. When you arrive at the University of South Florida, please make sure that you enter at the Fowler Avenue and Bull Run entrance. There will be signs throughout the area that will direct you.
8. The graduates must carry their caps and gowns into the University of South Florida Sun Dome as a visual search will be conducted by security personnel. Graduates may put their gowns on after they have entered the building. Additionally, they should not bring anything else with them except their caps and gowns. This includes purses and bags. Graduates should enter and go immediately to the entry that is marked for graduates (the Gate A Annex near the USF Store). Of note, caps cannot be decorated.
9. All bags brought in by guests will be searched. All guests will walk through metal detectors and will be wanded by security staff. No backpacks will be permitted in the University of South Florida. Cameras and binoculars will only be permitted if they are out of their cases (the cases should be left in the car). No professional camera equipment will be allowed in the arena.
10. Balloons, flowers, signs, noisemakers of any kind (including, but not limited to, bull horns, cowbells, whistles and air horns), or laser pointers will NOT be allowed in the University of South Florida.
11. Concessions at the University of South Florida may be open before the ceremony begins. Food and drink can be purchased for guests only.
12. Hearing-impaired services are available. Please contact Mrs. Jill Cortier if you need this service.
13. We recommend having a pre-arranged meeting place set with your graduate and family following the ceremony. Graduates will first have to pick up their diplomas following the ceremony in the area reserved for graduates, then will be able to meet at a spot immediately following this process.
14. Please do not hire or engage any outside organizations to film or photograph your graduate. Photographs and video of the graduates and ceremony are done by Gigante Productions and a copy of the video of the ceremony can be purchased. More information regarding will be forthcoming.
15. The graduation ceremony will be live streamed for those who are not able to attend. More information regarding this will be forthcoming.

Students will be informed by their school academic advisor if their graduation status changes. If a student is no longer eligible to graduate per the standards set by the State of Florida and the School District of Pasco County, then he/she will not be able to participate in the graduation ceremony. We thank you in advance for your cooperation in making our graduation ceremony a memorable event for our graduates and their guests. If you have any questions or concerns regarding graduation, please contact Mrs. Jill Cortier at e-mail jcortier@pasco.k12.fl.us or (727) 774-9200.

With best wishes,

Jessica R. Schultz
Principal