

Meade High School



Class of 2009 Senior Guide

April, 2009

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The time is rapidly drawing near for graduation and other related activities for seniors. We want to acquaint you with the calendar of events and policies so that you will be informed each step of the way.

The enclosed calendar gives you the important dates. We intend to adhere to this schedule very closely. Therefore, please note the starting times, especially that of graduation. The schedule for graduation practices is firm. The purpose of these sessions is to enable the graduates to practice together since the orderliness of the Saturday, June 6, 2009 commencement exercises will depend upon the rehearsal. We will enforce the policy that any senior who is absent from graduation practice for an unexcused reason will not be allowed to receive his/her diploma from the stage at the Equestrian Center on Saturday, June 6, 2009. Please telephone Mr. May at 410-674-7710 to notify him of a serious illness or other emergency that will excuse your son/daughter from graduation practice. Work is not a reason for an excused absence.

Graduates are to report to the Equestrian Center by 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 6, 2009. The exercises will start promptly at 2:30 p.m.

All seniors must clear all obligations incurred by them over the course of their high school career by Tuesday, May 26, 2009, i.e. outstanding class and library books, senior dues, etc. Diplomas and tickets will not be distributed unless the student is free of all debts. No personal checks will be accepted for seniors after Friday, April 24, 2009. After that date only cash or money order only will be accepted.

Please feel free to call Mr. May if you have any questions about the policies and/or activities described herein. I know that you join the faculty and staff of Meade High School in looking forward to the upcoming commencement exercises

The Class of 2009 is putting a lot of effort and expense to make the senior prom (May 8th) a memorable occasion. We hope that the seniors enjoy themselves at the prom, but we also expect that they behave in a manner that will not cause embarrassment to the student, the parents, the class, or the school. Inappropriate behavior will result in a denial of participation in commencement exercises. In order to make the occasion a happy one, we also encourage your sons and daughters to drive safely to and from this activity. Please review the section of this guide for procedures regarding possession and/or use of alcohol or drugs.



Calendar of School Sponsored Events and Important Dates for Seniors

*Please note no other senior activities are approved or sponsored by the school!

Dates:

<u>AP 2008 Exam Schedule</u>	See page 15
<u>April 21st</u>	Announcements delivered
<u>April 27th – May 4th</u>	Prom Tickets on sale
<u>Friday, May 1st</u>	Last day to pay Senior Dues (\$65.00)
<u>Saturday, May 2nd</u>	Prom Promise- Arundel Mills (Muvico Lobby) Noon-8 p.m.
<u>Sunday, May 3rd</u>	Prom Promise- Arundel Mills (Muvico Lobby) 11 a.m.-6 p.m.
<u>Friday, May 8th</u>	Senior Prom – 7:00 – 11:00 p.m. – Westin Hotel, Annapolis, MD
<u>May 11th- May 15th</u>	Cap and gown distribution
<u>Thursday, May 14th</u>	Breakfast Community Senior Awards Program 7:15 a.m by invite only
<u>Tuesday, May 26th</u>	All obligations must be cleared with Mrs. Sellman, Financial Secretary
<u>May 26th – May 29th</u>	Senior Exams – see attached schedule
<u>Friday, May 29th</u>	Graduation Rehearsal - 10:30 – 1:55 p.m.
<u>Friday, June 5th</u>	Mandatory Graduation rehearsal — 8:00 a.m.
<u>Saturday, June 6th</u>	Commencement Program Seniors must be at the Equestrian Center at 1:00 p.m. Ceremony begins at 2:30 p.m

SENIOR PROM

INTRODUCTION

The Senior Prom will be held on Friday, May 8, 2009 at the Westin Hotel from 7:00 p.m.–11:00 p.m. Formal attire is required for the Prom.

For the Prom: TICKETS AND PHOTO I.D. REQUIRED FOR ADMITTANCE INCLUDING GUEST!

Students are reminded to follow these procedures:

1. The cost of the ticket is \$80.00. The cost includes dinner, dancing and a prom favor per person. Those students who have paid dues will be able to purchase their tickets first. Any senior who has not yet paid for his/her senior dues must pay before he/she can purchase a prom ticket. **Students with obligations will not be allowed to purchase tickets.** All obligations (including class dues) must be cleared in order to purchase a ticket. There will be no table requests for prom. Seating is first come, first served. If you are bringing a date who is not a student at Meade High School the attached Prom Guest Pass must be completed at the time the prom ticket is purchased.
2. Dues are \$65.00 after April 1, 2009 and they help to defray the cost of graduation and end of the year activities. The last day to pay dues is Friday, May 1, 2008.
3. Students should arrive no later than 7:45 p.m. to be seated. **Dinner is served promptly at 8:15 p.m.**
4. Formal attire is the appropriate dress for the prom. For the young men, a tuxedo/Dress Suit is necessary and for the young ladies, a long gown or a formal short dress.
5. No tickets will be sold at the door.
6. Segall Majestic will take prom pictures. There is no sitting fee for the photos, but they must be ordered and paid for at the time they are taken at the prom. Photographs will be offered in a special prom package. The price sheet will be included with your invitation, which will be available at the time of ticket purchase.
7. Be mindful that you are *ambassadors* of Meade High School. Have a nice time in a manner that will reflect positively on you, your parents, and your school.
8. Alcoholic beverages, other drugs, etc. are not allowed. Students and guests are not to consume alcoholic beverages before coming to the prom. Students who are found to have consumed alcohol or to have used other drugs will not be admitted to the prom and will be suspended from school. Violation of these policies WILL result in the student's suspension from school and, in the case of graduating seniors, he/she being denied participation in any further senior activities, including the Awards Program and Commencement.
9. Policies regarding smoking will be the same as for any other school function. There will be NO SMOKING during the prom by anyone involved with the prom. This restriction applies to all guests and adults.
10. Have an enjoyable and memorable evening!



GRADUATING STUDENTS INVOLVEMENT WITH ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS

Graduating students who violate Board of Education policies on possession, consumption, and distribution of alcoholic beverages, controlled dangerous substances, counterfeit controlled dangerous substances, noncontrolled substances as defined by Article 27 Section 286B of the Annotated Code of Maryland, or other intoxicants at any time AFTER FRIDAY, MAY 1, 2009 and prior to the last scheduled day for graduating students, or during the time between the last scheduled day and the graduation ceremony, whether the activity takes place on school buses, within a school building or upon any school property, including private clubs, businesses, or commercial establishments, or during any school, school-related or Board of Education sponsored activity, shall be prohibited from participation in all senior activities, including proms, award ceremonies, and graduation ceremonies.

Diplomas earned by students denied participation in graduation ceremonies shall be available upon request in the principal's office on the first work day following graduation ceremonies.

- Friday, May 1, 2009 is the last day a graduating senior can be enrolled in the Alternatives to Drug Program.
- Friday, May 1, 2009 is the last day a graduating senior can be enrolled in the Responsible Actions Program.
- Friday, May 1, 2009 is the last day a graduating senior can be enrolled in the Anti-Tobacco Use Program.

SENIOR CREDIT INFORMATION

Students who are in danger of failing courses during their senior year have been officially notified through report cards, interim reports and letters to parents.

Students and parents must remember that attendance, along with grades, plays a crucial role in the awarding of credit in each course in which the student is enrolled. Attend school every day – do not endanger graduation by excessive absences!



VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIAN

In keeping with our commencement traditions at Meade High School, the Valedictorian and Salutatorian for the Class of 2009 will speak at the graduation ceremony to be held at the Equestrian Center on Saturday, June 6, 2009 at 2:30 p.m.

The Valedictorian will be that member of the Class of 2009 who has the highest grade point average on the weighted system at the time of the commencement. The Salutatorian will be that person with the second highest grade point average on the weighted system. In the event of a tie, such factors as length of time of attendance at Meade Senior High School and total number of credits attempted will be considered by the principal in making the final determination.

WEIGHTED GRADING POLICY IMPLICATIONS

As you are aware, the Anne Arundel County Board of Education adopted a Weighted Grading Policy for all students, effective March 1993. The policy and its effect on the selection of Valedictorians and Salutatorians is explained as follows:

The following is the policy for Weighted Grading in the Anne Arundel County Public Schools.

1. One system of weighted grading be applied to students enrolled in "honors" and "advanced placement" courses for grades earned of A, B, or C. One additional quality point will be added to advance placement courses and .50 quality point to honors courses.

<u>Unweighted Courses</u>	<u>AP Courses</u>	<u>Honors Courses</u>
A = 4	A = 4+1 = 5	A = 4+. 50 = 4.50
B = 3	B = 3+1 = 4	B = 3+. 50 = 3.50
C = 2	C = 2+1 = 3	C = 2+. 50 = 2.50
D = 1	D = 1+0 = 1	D = 1+. 00 = 1.00
E = 0	E = 0+0 = 0	E = 0 + 0 = 0

2. A system of grading, including weighted grades for honors and advanced placement, is applied for all school system policies, regulations, and procedures, such as class ranking and extracurricular eligibility. This system will be designated on all student transcripts.

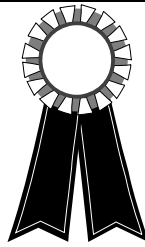
3. The student transcript will reflect both a "weighted" and "unweighted" grade point average.

OBLIGATIONS



Seniors must arrange to clear all obligations with the school on or before May 26, 2009. Textbooks, school materials, and media materials are to be returned. Other obligations to the class, clubs, and teams must also be satisfied by Tuesday, May 26, 2009. Seniors with outstanding obligations will not be able to purchase prom tickets. Transcripts will not be sent until all obligations are cleared. To avoid delay and inconvenience, seniors are expected to clear all obligations in a timely manner.

SENIOR AWARDS



Each year the members of the senior class are recognized for their scholastic and athletic achievements. The Senior Awards Program for the Class of 2008 will be held on Thursday, May 14, 2009. This program is by invitation only. The reception for invited seniors and guests will be at 7:15 a.m. in the Meade High School auxiliary gymnasium and the awards program will begin at 8:00 a.m. in the school auditorium. Any questions or concerns should be directed to Mr. Putt in the Guidance Department at 410-672-0873 x252.

COMMENCEMENT

PARTICIPATION

The Commencement ceremony is intended to recognize those seniors who have completed all requirements for a Maryland High School Diploma or certificate of attendance. Any senior who does not meet all requirements will not be permitted to take part in Commencement.

Tickets will be required for any person attending graduation. Each graduate will receive 6 tickets at the last rehearsal. Should additional tickets be needed, students can request up to 4 additional tickets on the form enclosed. Should a family have need for additional tickets beyond the 6 tickets please complete the attached form.



PARENT NOTIFICATION

To avoid disappointment to seniors and parents, the school staff has, since the end of the first semester, reviewed report cards and transcripts and counseled seniors at risk of not meeting all diploma requirements. Parents and seniors have been notified personally and in writing about deficiencies. In those instances where a senior's academic performance is uncertain until the final exams, the staff will notify those seniors and parents as quickly as possible when the final grades are known. Parents are urged to monitor report cards and request conferences if they have questions about their son's or daughter's academic standing as a senior. Conferences can be arranged through your student's guidance counselor by calling the school, 410-672-0873 between 7:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. on school days.

Students and parents must remember that attendance, along with grades, plays a crucial role in the awarding of credit in each course in which the student is enrolled. Attend school every day - Do not endanger graduation via excessive absences!



Meade High School
Class of 2009
Request for Additional Graduation Tickets

Student's Name: _____

No. of Tickets Requested: _____(Not to Exceed 4)

Return this form to Mrs. Herrmann in the Main Office by May 19, 2009.

GRADUATION DAY



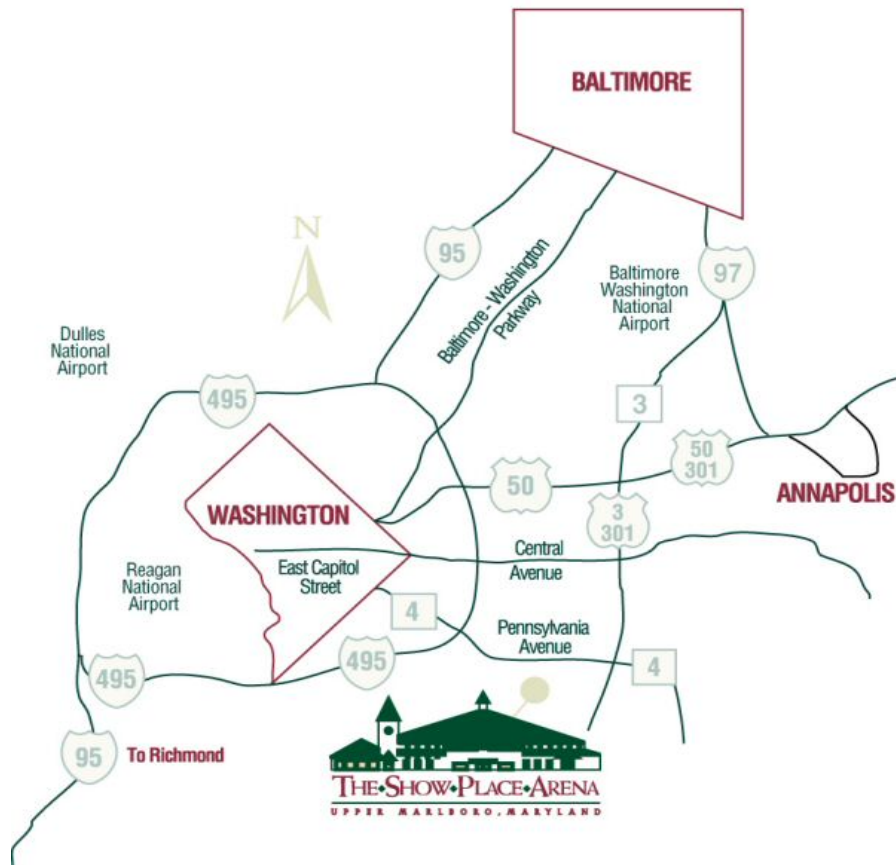
1. Saturday, June 6, 2009 - Seniors are to be at the Equestrian Center in their caps and gowns by 1:00 p.m. Attendance check will be conducted. No one will be allowed to participate in the ceremony without his or her cap and gown. If a senior still has not ordered a cap and gown, he/she should contact Mrs. Herrmann, 410-674-7710 x 210.
2. Do not chew gum! Cell phones, iPod's, etc. will not be allowed to be carried by seniors during graduation.
3. As each graduate receives his/her diploma, a professional photographer will take pictures. The seniors are under no obligation to purchase the pictures. You will receive information on the price of these pictures from the company prior to graduation. A video of graduation will also be available for purchase. Information is attached on how to order. Guests will not be allowed to leave their seats during the ceremony to take pictures. Pictures may be taken after the ceremony.
4. Students are to wear appropriate "Sunday" dress under their caps and gowns. Jeans, shorts, or tennis shoes are unacceptable. The young men should wear dress pants, matching socks, dress shoes, white or light blue dress shirt and a tie. Young ladies should wear a light-colored dress which does not show through the gown, and due to safety factors, young ladies are encouraged to wear low-heeled shoes.
5. Graduation Day is your last day as a student of Meade Senior High School. However, school will still be in session beyond Friday, May 29, 2009 for the remainder of the student body. Please do not come back to visit while school is in session.
6. Behavior at the Commencement Exercises at the Equestrian Center on Saturday, June 6, 2009 should reflect the pride of academic accomplishment. No inappropriate behavior such as whistling, yelling out, etc., will be tolerated. Due to safety factors, hats are not to be thrown at the end of the ceremony. The Senior Class must follow in the tradition of a dignified ceremony for commencement.
7. Recessional will follow the same order as the processional. Those persons on stage will lead the recessional with Seniors following.

GUEST ARRIVAL AND PARKING

The commencement processional will begin promptly at 2:30 p.m. Graduates, parents, and guests should consider traffic conditions and plan accordingly as they depart from the Equestrian Center. All guests should plan to be seated by 2:15 p.m. on Saturday, June 6, 2009. **Just a reminder – plan for traffic delays on Route 301 South.**

There is a graduation scheduled in the morning on June 6, 2009. Please allow plenty of time for parking due to congestion in the parking lots.

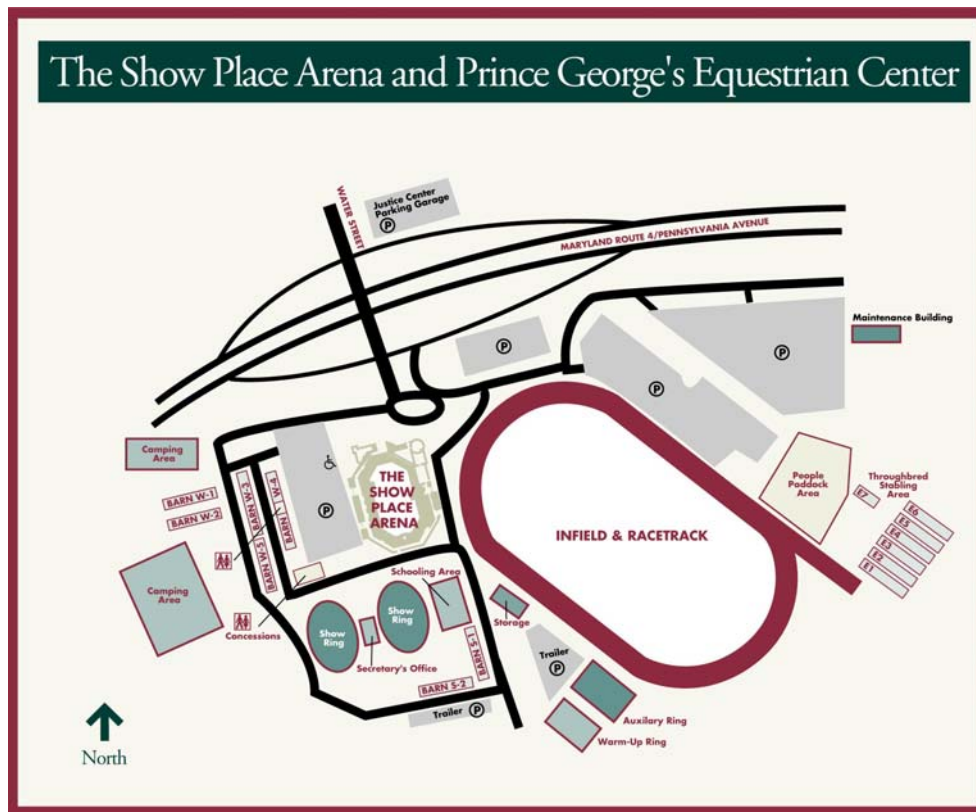
Directions to The Show Place Arena



Directions:

Take I-95 (Washington Capital Beltway) to exit 11A, Pennsylvania Avenue South/East (Route 4). Follow for seven miles to Upper Marlboro exit. Turn right at the stop sign.

From Baltimore Beltway (I-695) take Route 97 to Route 3. Route 3 turns into Route 301. Continue to exit at Route 4 North/West (toward Washington). Take first exit (Upper Marlboro) to stop sign and take a left to the arena.



Parking at the Arena:

- *Free and ample parking onsite with 2,500 spaces, 3,000 additional spaces within walking distance.
- *Accessible parking is located on the right side of the Arena. If the event has Parkers, please follow their directions.
- *Ramps are available by the lobby doors on either side of the lobby.

The Show Place Arena
 14900 Pennsylvania Avenue
 Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772
 (301) 952-7900



CHANGING OF THE TASSEL

After all the graduating students have received their diplomas and have returned to their seats, each student will be asked to move his/her tassel from the right side to the left side. This ceremony is intended to give the graduate a feeling of personal significance and mark his/her graduation.

CAP AND GOWNS

The graduating students of America's high schools, colleges, and universities wear the traditional cap and gown on Graduation Day. For a moment, they are wearing the proud badge of belonging to a great profession -- that of a student.

The wearing of gowns by judges, ministers, teachers, and scholars is an impressive custom. The judges in American courtrooms wear black gowns that distinguish them and symbolize the dignity by wearing the gown of their office. In English schools and colleges, teachers wear gowns in class and on all official occasions.

The ancient custom of wearing gowns goes back more than seven (7) centuries to the revival of interest in learning that took place in Europe in the eleventh and twelfth centuries. The custom goes back to the famous medieval universities of Paris, Bologna, and the English Universities at Oxford and Cambridge, which appeared later.

During this time, the gown, (that is the full-flowing robes) with many variations in design and cut, was worn by everyone. This was "vogue" until the sixteenth century, and then it was gradually limited to professional men. By the seventeenth century, it was worn only by legal, official, clerical, and academic personages.

The cap and gown of the masters and scholars distinguished them from the often-hostile commoners of the town. Bitter animosity between the two groups resulted in bloody riots at Oxford and Cambridge from time to time. Sometimes a founder of a college left instructions as to the type of gown the students of the college should wear. Cambridge colleges still, in some cases, prescribe gowns of a certain color or cut for their undergraduates.

In those days, bachelors of arts and undergraduates of every description were compelled by statutes to wear the academic dress whenever they appeared in the streets or in the public walks of the university, a ruling that is still in effect.

Like so many of the picturesque rites that are part of our American lives, academic pageantry seems to be "an old English custom".

Caps should be placed upon the head with the longer point of the crown to the back. The shorter point should be centered on the forehead, down far enough so that the top is level. The tassel is draped over the left temple. Tassels should never be pinned or sewn, but should be permitted to hang naturally.

When properly worn, the gown should reach either five or six inches above the floor. Boys should wear white shirts with dark ties and dress slacks with appropriate shoes. Ladies should wear a light colored dress and, for safety's sake, wear low-heeled shoes.



AP Exam Schedule

2009 Exam Calendar - Week 1		
	Morning - 8 a.m.	Afternoon - 12 p.m.
Monday, May 4	United States Government and Politics	Comparative Government and Politics French Language
Tuesday, May 5*	Computer Science A Computer Science AB Spanish Language	Statistics
Wednesday, May 6	Calculus AB Calculus BC	Chinese Language and Culture
Thursday, May 7	English Literature and Composition German Language	French Literature Japanese Language and Culture
Friday, May 8	United States History	European History Studio Art (portfolios due)

2009 Exam Calendar - Week 2			
	Morning - 8 a.m.	Afternoon - 12 p.m.	Afternoon - 2 p.m.
Monday, May 11	Biology Music Theory	Physics B Physics C: Mechanics	Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism
Tuesday, May 12	Chemistry Environmental Science	Psychology	
Wednesday, May 13	English Language and Composition Italian Language and Culture	Art History	
Thursday, May 14	Macroeconomics World History	Microeconomics	
Friday, May 15	Human Geography Spanish Literature	Latin Literature Latin: Vergil	

Please note:

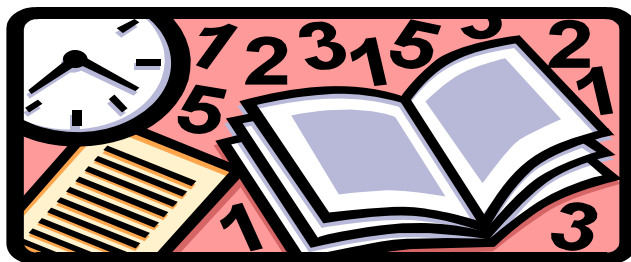
*Schools may assemble students earlier than these exam start times to complete identifying information on answer sheets. Your AP Coordinator is responsible for letting you know exactly when and where to report for your exams.

*Schools in Alaska must begin the morning exam administration between 7 a.m. and 8 a.m. local time and the afternoon exam administration between 11 a.m. and 12 noon local time. The AP Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism Exam must begin between 1 and 2 p.m. in Alaska.

*If you wish to take exams that are scheduled for the same time slot, ask your Coordinator for information about taking one of the exams during the late-testing period. You may not take both Calculus AB and Calculus BC in one year.

*If you plan to take exams scheduled for May 5 and your school will be closed due to Cinco de Mayo, ask your Coordinator for information about taking those exams during the late-testing period.

*Early testing or testing at times other than those published by the College Board are not permitted under any circumstances.



SENIOR EXAMS
MAY 2008

Senior exams will be given on:
 Friday, May 22nd CAT-N Exam
 Tuesday, May 26th
 Wednesday, May 27th
 Thursday, May 28th
 Friday, May 29th

The Senior Exam Schedule:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Exam</u>	<u>Time</u>		<u>Time</u>
Tuesday, May 26th	3B	10:40	-	12:35
Tuesday, May 26th	4B	12:40	-	2:05
Wednesday, May 27th	3A	10:40	-	12:35
Wednesday, May 27th	4A	12:40	-	2:05
Thursday, May 28th	1B	7:17	-	8:45
Thursday, May 28th	2B	9:15	-	10:35
Friday, May 29th	1A	7:17	-	8:45
Friday, May 29th	2A	9:15	-	10:35

Make-up Exams: Anyone who misses an exam because of illness will take the exam on the school day immediately following the day of illness. **NO SENIORS WILL BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN GRADUATION EXERCISES UNLESS ALL ACADEMIC AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS ARE MET.**

ALL SENIORS ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND ALL CLASSES ON EACH OF THE 5 DAYS AND TO TAKE ALL EXAMS AS SCHEDULED ABOVE.

Senior exams are:

- a. One class period (85 minutes) in length.
- b. Counted as 20% of the semester grade with each marking period counting 40%.
- c. Written tests.

Textbooks will be collected on the last day of classes. This is a student responsibility. No excuses will be accepted for textbooks which disappear or are misplaced after being left in rooms or on teachers' desks. Textbooks must be turned in by the student to whom they were loaned in the classroom.

ATTENDANCE REVIEW PROCEDURES

As you are aware, the Board of Education has maintained an excessive absence policy, which states, "Regardless of the cause of absence, a student who is absent six (6) or more days a semester is excessively absent". Students in this category may not meet the requirements for earning credit.

At Meade, we established the following procedures to review causes of absences and the granting of credit for students with six (6) or more days of absence at the conclusion of each semester:

1. The principal, with input from the faculty, reviews all cases of students with six through eight days of absence for whom a recommendation to withhold credit was made.
2. An Attendance Review Committee, composed of teachers, counselors, administrators and the school nurse, reviews all cases of students with nine or more days of absence. The committee spends an entire day in making its determinations and utilizing the following criteria:
 - a. number of days absent
 - b. reasons for absences
 - c. patterns of absences
 - d. teacher comments
 - e. teacher recommendations
 - f. counselor recommendations
 - g. administrator recommendations

The importance of this situation is that the attendance policy is in effect each semester and thus, in order to earn credit for a class, a student must do two things during any semester:

1. Satisfactorily complete all assigned work.
2. Be in attendance at least 95% of the time.

Please encourage your student to attend school and all of his/her classes whenever physically possible, in order that the granting of credit is not in question.

GRADUATION REHEARSALS

MANDATORY GRADUATION REHEARSAL WILL BE HELD ON FRIDAY, MAY 29, 2009 DURING PERIODS 3 AND 4 AND ON FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 2009 STARTING AT 8:00 A.M.. ATTENDANCE AND COOPERATION AT GRADUATION REHEARSALS ARE MANDATORY TO ENSURE A SUCCESSFUL GRADUATION CEREMONY ON SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 2009. A FEW OF THE IMPORTANT TOPICS TO BE COVERED AT THE REHEARSALS ARE: RULES OF CONDUCT, SEATING, PROCESSIONAL LINE-UP, AND SCHOOL POLICY IN REGARDS TO PAYMENT OF FINES AND FEES.

ANY STUDENT MISSING THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED GRADUATION REHEARSALS FOR AN UNEXCUSED REASON WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO GRADUATE FROM THE STAGE WITH THE CLASS. ONLY SERIOUS ILLNESS OR EMERGENCIES WILL BE CONSIDERED ACCEPTABLE REASONS FOR ABSENCES FROM GRADUATION REHEARSALS. DOCTOR NOTES MAY BE REQUIRED. SENIORS WHO MISS REHEARSALS AND WHO HAVE NOT CLEARED THEIR ABSENCES THROUGH MR. MAY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES ON SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 2009. SENIORS ARE TO BE ON TIME FOR ALL REHEARSALS AND ARE TO REMAIN IN THE DESIGNATED AREAS AT ALL TIMES.

GRADUATION IS A WONDERFUL AND SIGNIFICANT OCCASION FOR ALL SENIORS