



Peekskill City School District
A System Focused on Every Student; Every Day

The Mission of the Peekskill City School District is to educate students in a caring, inspiring environment characterized by a spirit of excellence and high expectations; prepare graduates to meet or exceed standards; graduate students who respect and appreciate cultural diversity; and prepare students to pursue adult lives as contributing citizens of our local and global community.

Rodney Arthur
Principal

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May 9, 2017

Dear Graduating Seniors, Parents and Guardians:

The conclusion of the 2016-2017 school year is fast approaching. I would like to take a moment to share with you some of the key events that will be occurring at Peekskill High School. In addition, I would like to reaffirm some of our expectations in regard to the successful completion of these events and the school year. Please take the opportunity to familiarize yourselves with the important information regarding our procedures for the various events listed below, as well as our expectations regarding student behavior during the last two months of school.

Senior Prom: The Senior Prom will be held on **Thursday, June 1, 2017** at Anthony's Pier 9 in New Windsor, NY. The prom starts at 6:00 p.m. and ends at 11:00 p.m. **Students are required to take the charter bus to the prom. The busses will be leaving from the Riverfront Green Park in Peekskill at 5:15 p.m.**

Students and guests must wear the wristband they received, and non-PHS guests must present a picture ID also, to board the bus. Bus assignments and wristbands will be given out after school in the **library on Wednesday, May 24 and Friday, May 26 from 2:30 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.** The consumption or possession of illegal drugs and or intoxicating beverages at the prom, even if a participant is of legal drinking age, is strictly prohibited. If a student is caught using alcohol or drugs, or appears to be under the influence, parents will be notified and disciplinary measures will be taken. **PHS students are responsible for their guest and students will be removed from the prom.** If a student or guest appears to be under the influence of any illegal substance, prior to getting on the bus to the prom venue, they will **NOT** be permitted to attend the event. *Parents will be contacted and asked to accompany their child home for the evening; parents and students will not be reimbursed. Additional prom guidelines, along with a prom contract, will be presented at the Mandatory Parent Prom Meeting on Tuesday, May 23, 2017 at 6 p.m. in the PHS library.*

Senior Award Night: Senior Award Night is scheduled for **Wednesday, June 21.** It will be held at the Paramount Theater at 7 p.m. If your child has received an award/scholarship, you will receive an invitation by mail with more details.

GRADUATION

Graduation will be held on **Sunday, June 25, 2017** at 2pm at the Paramount Theater. The ceremony will last approximately 2 hours. Doors will open at 1:00pm and we ask all guests to be seated by 1:45pm. **If you have not entered the Paramount by 1:45 p.m., your ticket will be forfeited. The doors will close promptly at 1:45 P.M.** and will not be reopened until **AFTER** the graduates have processed. **Students are to arrive at 12:00 noon and report to the Elks Lodge, which is located next to the Paramount Theater.**

Graduation Rehearsal: Graduation rehearsals are mandatory for all graduates. Rehearsals will take place on Wednesday, June 21 at 10am at the Paramount Theater and Thursday, June 22 at 10 a.m. at PHS. **Attendance is mandatory at both rehearsals and students who are absent may not be able to join the graduation ceremony on Sunday, June 25, 2017.**

Ticket Information: Tickets will be given to students during graduation rehearsal **ONLY**. Each student will receive four (4) tickets to graduation. **ALL guests attending the graduation will be required to present a ticket to gain entry. This includes children as well.**

Handicapped Seating: Should you require handicap seating accommodations please call Ms. Clarke at (914) 737-0201 or email her at jclarke@peekskillcsd.org. It is very important that we know ahead of time if there will be guests with wheelchairs or walkers, so we can have appropriate accommodations. *Please be advised the handicap section can accommodate only one (1) additional guest to sit with the wheelchair guest.* Any additional guests will be seated in general seating. **Please note wheelchair guests and their companion are required to have a ticket.**

Caps and Gowns: Caps and gowns will be distributed during graduation rehearsal. If your student has not ordered their cap and gown, please order it ASAP at Jostens.com. *Cap and gown are required to participate in graduation.*

Appropriate Dress: Commencement ceremonies are one of the highlights of the year. Exemplary conduct and proper dress befitting this formal occasion are expected. We are encouraging students to wear clothing that is consistent with the occasion (i.e. no shorts, no halter tops, no sneakers or flip flops.) Please speak with your child about making good choices for this event.

Guest Guidelines: Each guest is required to have a ticket for entry into the Paramount Theater. Guests will not be allowed to stand in the aisles or in the back or balcony areas of the theater. All guests must be seated at the start of the ceremony. ***Guests are asked to remain seated during the entire event and will not be permitted into the aisles to take photographs.*** Security will be present and enforcing these guidelines. **Balloons, strollers, large bags, pets and noise makers WILL NOT be allowed inside the Paramount Theater.**

Important Dates to Remember

Event	Date
AP Exams	May 1 through May 12
Mandatory Prom Parent Meeting	May 23 - 6 p.m. @ PHS
Prom wristbands and bus assignments	May 24 & 26 - 2:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the PHS Library
Senior Prom	June 1 - busses leave @ 5:15 p.m. from Riverfront
State/Local/District Exams	June 9 - 22nd
Senior Awards Night	June 21 - 7p.m. @ Paramount
Mandatory Graduation Rehearsal	June 21 & June 22
Graduation	June 25 – 2 p.m. @ Paramount (students report at 12:00 noon)

Please remember that only students who have met all graduation requirements are permitted to participate in the graduation ceremony. The most common reasons for seniors not meeting graduation requirements are poor attendance, incomplete work and failing regents exams. Please encourage your child to be in school every day and remain focused on completing the work necessary to graduate. Additionally, if your student is required to take a regents exam for graduation, encourage them to attend Regents Prep on Tuesdays and Thursdays. It is also important for students to remember all school rules remain in effect until the end of the school year.

Behavior that disrupts the educational process at school may lead to suspension and/or denial of a student's privilege to attend any school activities including senior events.

I ask for your support in our efforts to discourage senior skip days and any informal arrangements students may consider that would be contrary to the good order and functioning of the school. Skip days are illegal absences and it is imperative that students attend their entire regular class schedule through the last day of instruction. At Peekskill High School we want to ensure an environment exists that is most conducive to learning and free from unnecessary distractions. We have taken, and will continue to take, a firm stand on these matters. As Always, we appreciate your support and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Rodney Arthur,
Principal