

District 214 looks forward to celebrating our seniors on graduation day. We want to provide some additional information regarding graduation attire in hopes that we can both honor the rich heritage of academia while also allowing individual expressions and cultural joy.

- Students and staff participating in the ceremonies will generally follow the recommendations of the American Council on Education *outlined here*.
- All genders will wear the same color gown as decided by the school.
- Students wishing to wear a school-issued stole or decorate their caps are allowed to do so as long as it honors themselves and others.
- No expressions will be tolerated that have legally and historically marginalized people, promote hate, violence, illegal activities, and anything else that violates the student handbook. No Confederate Flags, Swastikas, and other symbols of hate are allowed. 1) *ADL Resource* 2) *Washington Post Resource*

### GRADUATION CAP DECORATIONS:

Please follow all of these rules while decorating your graduation cap. Cap decorating will follow the existing Student Appearance (Administrative Procedure 7:160) philosophy:

- Prevent students from wearing clothing or accessories that denote, suggest, display or reference alcohol, drugs or related paraphernalia or other illegal conduct or activities.
- Prevent students from wearing clothing or accessories that reasonably can be construed as being or including content that is racist, lewd, vulgar or obscene, or that reasonably can be construed as containing fighting words, speech that incites others to imminent lawless action, defamatory speech, or threats to others.
- Ensure that all students are treated equitably regardless of race, gender/gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion, cultural observance, or body type/size.

### GENERAL GRADUATION CAP DECORATING GUIDELINES:

- Graduation caps will be reviewed and approved in advance of the ceremony by the building administrative team.
- The flat, top area of the cap may be decorated and feathers can be hanging off from the sides.
- Decorations must be secured to the flat part of the surface.
- No blinking lights or anything battery operated.
- Ensure that the decorations will not come off the cap. Do not use anything that will make noise, no bells, whistles, etc.
- The following are examples of appropriate messages:
  - Thank a parent, grandparent, teacher, or friend.
  - Recognize your future post-secondary institution.
  - Your graduation year.
  - The branch of the military you will be joining.
- The following is prohibited from cap decorating:
  - Obscene, profane, vulgar or lewd messages.
  - Contain any symbols, advertisements, initials, abbreviations, words, slogans, patches or pictures that refer to drugs or controlled substances, tobacco, alcohol, weapons or be of a sexual nature.
  - Denote an affiliation with gangs.
  - Advocate drug use, violence, illegal activity, or disruptive behavior which is detrimental to the safety and welfare of other students.
  - Threaten the safety or welfare of any person.

