

CULMINATION – 8TH GRADE

The Ceremony will take place in the Holmes Middle School Quad. Specific information regarding the ceremony times and other pertinent information will be distributed later in the school year.

The culmination ceremony will be a very special occasion for you and your child, as we recognize your child's achievement in middle school and award him/her a certificate, signifying satisfactory completion of all requirements. To assist you in planning for the ceremony, please follow these guidelines.

A. CULMINATION CEREMONY INFORMATION AND GUIDELINES

1. Based on California Education Code AB 1575, schools can no longer require families to pay for caps and gown worn as a part of a culmination ceremony. As a result of this ruling, Holmes MS students will not be wearing gowns to the ceremony. In recognition of the dignity and significance of the day, we are implementing a culmination dress code. Please make sure your child follows the guidelines listed below. Failure to follow the guidelines will result in removal from the ceremony and he/she will receive their Certificate of Completion after the ceremony concludes. The dress code is as follows:

a. **Girls may wear**

- Dresses or skirts: the hemline must extend 2 inches beyond fingertip length (no strapless or sheer dresses)
- Dressy pants (no jeans, shorts or tights of any kind)
- Dressy blouses: no strapless tops, spaghetti straps, backless tops, revealing necklines, halter tops, crop tops or logos
- Closed toe shoes: heels no higher than 3 inches; low heels are less likely to sink into the grass

b. **Boys may wear**

- Collared shirts (no T-shirts or shirts with logos). Shirts should be tucked into pants
- Slacks (no jeans of any kind; no baggy/oversized pants; no frayed hems or holes).

Note: Students may not wear hats, chains, or large items over their clothes, i.e. large pieces of jewelry, leis, sashes, buttons, etc. Students are encouraged to wear items they received from the Pin & Ribbon Ceremony.

2. Good Citizenship and Proper Behavior

Participation in the ceremony is contingent upon good citizenship and proper behavior throughout the entire year as well as during the ceremony. Students who do not follow these guidelines may be excluded from the ceremony.

3. Planning for the Ceremony

- a. Tickets are not required to attend the ceremony.
- b. There will be two entrances to the campus, (1) the gate at the front of the school and (2) the south parking lot gate on Prairie Street. Guests will be allowed on campus and into the ceremony area at a designated time (TBA).
- c. A limited amount of parking will be available in the south parking lot on Prairie Street. Parking in this lot will not be available until after 8:30 a.m. Please allow time to walk to the campus if you have to park a distance from the entrances.
- d. For the enjoyment of all our guests, the following items **will not be allowed** on campus during the ceremony:

-balloons	whistles or noise makers	beach balls
-air horns	umbrellas	water balloons
-bubbles	silly string	other disruptive items

Staff members will be at the gates checking for prohibited items, Please leave them in your car or at home.

- e. There will be a photography area set up on the west side of the stage. You are encouraged to take photos/video from this area. Photographers will not be permitted in front of the stage, in the aisles, or in any area that will block the view of others.
- f. We ask that everyone hold their cheers and applause until all the students receive their certificates. Every child's name deserves to be heard.
- g. The ceremony may be videotaped. If it is videotaped, you will be given information on how to order a DVD.
- h. Upon conclusion of the ceremony we asked that all eighth graders and their families leave campus as soon as possible. Our 6th/7th graders will be transitioning onto campus as the ceremony ends.

B. CULMINATING ACTIVITIES: (Available to eligible 8th grade students only)

- Eighth Grade Awards night. This event is by invitation only.
- Class picnic and Dance
-

We look forward to a beautiful and memorable culmination.