

February 11, 2021

Dear 2021 FWAHS Graduates and Parents,

Our records indicate that your senior is planning on participating in the 2021 Commencement Ceremonies. If you have decided not to participate please let us know immediately. FWAHS provides a formal ceremony and reception. Each individual home school determines certification for graduation. A diploma is the responsibility of each individual family to order for their home school.

Awarding of the diplomas will be by the graduate's parents or guardians. Parents have up to one minute to award the diploma. This time includes any comments made by one and/or both parents. Parents, we encourage you to remember this is a commencement in honor of a new beginning. You may wish to give your graduate a challenge or blessing for the future. Graduates then have 30 seconds each to thank parents, including giving his or her mother a rose. Planning your speeches ahead will make the presentations much more meaningful and interesting for you and your guests. The ceremony will probably last more than an hour and a half. Please keep within the allotted times that you are given. We all need to work to be prepared.

FWAHS has these requirements for graduates:

- **There will be a \$40 participation fee to help offset our costs for commencement.**
- Graduate families need to be *Homemade News* subscribers.
- **Graduates and both parents/guardians are required to attend the Friday evening dress rehearsal (similar to 40 wedding rehearsals rolled into one) and the reception following the ceremony as well as the ceremony. It is recommended that you do not plan an open house before 3:00 p.m.**
- Parents(s) or guardian(s) of the graduate will present their school's diploma.
- The graduate needs to have been homeschooled, at least, his entire senior year. Homeschooling is defined as 50% of the student's education completed in the home by an individual with a legal relationship to the student. An exception would be allowed for those students enrolled in an institution where they are receiving dual credits.
- Responsibilities of graduating families include payment of \$40 participation fee, a biography for the program, graduate pictures for a multimedia presentation, a diploma, a commercial unaltered matching cap and gown (with tassel), the rose color, and an immediate family list. I am unsure at this point if I can get a videographer, I will keep you up to date on that and the cost if it becomes available.

Graduates **MUST** meet the stated deadline of May 1, 2021 for the submission of all necessary requirements and information. If you miss this deadline and still wish to participate in the FWAHS Commencement, there will be a \$100 late charge payable to FWAHS upon delivery of the completed, required submissions up until May 15, 2021. If the May 15 deadline is missed the graduate will not be able to participate in the Commencement. **We encourage all graduates and parents to read the newsletter carefully and fulfill all the required tasks on time.**

If you have any questions feel free to contact us:

Doug & Heather Kemerly, notone2mny@gmail.com you may also call or text Heather @ (260) 415-2210 (quickest way to contact me)

FWAHS Commencement Details

Rehearsal: Friday, June 11th, 2021
St Michael's Lutheran Church
2131 Getz Road
Fort Wayne, IN 46804

Graduates only (no siblings or friends)

Be there ready to begin by 6 PM. We will begin promptly at 6:00 PM.

All Parents and All Graduates only

Be there ready to begin by 7:30 PM. We will begin promptly at 7:30 PM.

REHEARSAL IS MANDATORY FOR ALL GRADUATES AND ALL PARENTS

Be sure to bring your matching, unaltered, commercial cap and gown – ironed and labeled! Don't forget your tassel! *Please arrive early enough to find your assigned seating before your beginning time.*

Commencement: Saturday, June 12th, 2021 @ 11:00 AM
St Michael's Lutheran Church
2131 Getz Road
Fort Wayne, IN 46804

Feel free to invite as many friends and family members as you wish. There is plenty of seating available just not with the graduate's immediate family.

This is a formal event and dress attire is expected by the graduates for the ceremony. No shorts, jeans or other very casual clothing are to be worn under the gowns. Young men are to wear dress shirts, ties, dress pants, and dress shoes. A young lady should wear a dress or skirt no longer than the academic gown and dress shoes. Please wear comfortable yet dressy shoes, no flip-flops or tennis shoes. Girls are not to wear extreme high heels or open-backed shoes that flap when you walk.

Musical Presentation Opportunities

Any graduate desiring to tryout to do a musical presentation just prior to the commencement ceremony will need to send a video via email, a DVD or YouTube video of the performance exactly as they plan to perform it. No more than three will be chosen. The DVD should be sent to the Kemerlys by May 1st. Please send to notone2mny@gmail.com

Seating Requirements: Doug & Heather (260)415-2210 or notone2mny@gmail.com

Parents will present diplomas to their graduates at the graduation ceremony. In order to coordinate the presentations and ensure good seating for immediate family members, please provide a list of only the immediate family members who will be attending. Sometimes there is enough space for married siblings or grandparents to sit with you also, but we cannot tell until we begin creating the seating chart. One way to help me with this is to give me both numbers if you'd like, then if we can fit them in, we will. Please also make me aware of any special needs of individuals in the list you provide, like wheelchairs or walkers.

All information is required by May 1st, 2021. Please e-mail us at notone2mny@gmail.com or if you prefer, you may call or text us. You may invite all the family and friends you wish; however they will not be able to sit in the same area as your immediate family during the ceremony. Thank you for your help in making this a smooth and memorable graduation celebration.

Graduation Program:

Due date May 1st. Your brief biographies as the 2021 graduating class members will be included in the graduation program. Please compose and submit the bio using the following guidelines:

- Write the biography in third person.
- Keep the number of words between 125-175 words. Please keep it within this range. The program coordinator will edit as necessary.
- This is a professional commencement ceremony program. Please respect your fellow classmates and your families in composing your bio.
- Type or print your information.
- Read through biographies in past programs to get ideas.
- Make your bio informative and descriptive. **Include your first, middle and last name to be used in the program and PowerPoint.** Keep the bio unique to you. Some suggestions are provided below. You do not need to include all of them.
 - When and where you were born
 - Your family... parents' names, siblings' information, etc.
 - Homeschooling history...how long, school name, and specific areas of study
 - Your interests and/or hobbies
 - Involvements and/or activities
 - Future plans...especially college or vocational plan
 - A significant Scripture verse
- Completed biographies may be to me at notone2mny@gmail.com or mail a printed copy to: **FWAHS Grad Bios, 1521 Green Rd, New Haven, IN 46774.** Please include your phone number or e-mail address if you send me your biography so I can contact you regarding any issues that may arise. I will send you a response on receipt of the biography. At this point, email is the best way to send me this.

PowerPoint Presentation:

Due date May 1st. Each graduate will be allotted ten pictures, which will be shown as the graduates are walking up to the stage to receive their diplomas. The presentation will be done using PowerPoint software and the First Assembly projection system. Photos will be digitally compiled into the slideshow. Photos may be sent to Heather as soon as possible, but no later than May 1stth. Email photos to my email address notone2mny@gmail.com or mail actual photos to **FWAHS Grad Photos, 1521 Green Road, New Haven, IN 46774**. If you choose to mail your photos, please include your name and phone number and e-mail address so that I am able to contact you if there are problems.

The purpose of the slide show presentation is to display the life of the graduate. The following are some guidelines for submitting pictures:

- Please send 10 clear photographs
- Indicate in what order the pictures should be shown (number them in the email)
- Please don't send them in a power point format or pdf format. JPG is the best and easiest format for us to work with
- Possible picture selections may include baby picture, infant/toddler, elementary age, high school, hobbies, current or graduation photo.
- Please review your pictures with modesty in mind.

*** If you haven't already done so, senior portraits need to be taken immediately so they will be ready for the May 1st deadline. ***

Roses and Graduation Fee

All graduates will give a rose to their mother during the ceremony. Color choices for the rose are: Red, Yellow, White, or Pink.

Cost: included

Deadline: May 1st, 2021.

The rose and graduation fee can be paid for online on the FWAHS website at www.fwahs.org/gradsub.htm by selecting the Rose Order Page button. You may order through the mail using the order form below.

Rose and Graduation Fee Form

Send form with check or money order made out to FWAHS to:

FWAHS
c/o Heather Kemerly
1521 Green Rd
New Haven, IN 46774

graduation fee \$40
Rose fee \$5

\$

Name of Graduate/s _____

Number of seats needed _____

Rose Color: Red Yellow

Pink White

2021 Graduate Deadlines

May 1 Video/Dvd due to the Kemerlys for music performance tryouts

May 1 \$40 participation fee

May 1 Photos and biographies due

May 1 Seating requirements and rose order

May 15 \$100 late requirements deadline

June 11 Dress Rehearsal – Bring labeled cap, tassel & pressed, labeled and unaltered gown, diploma and camera

June 12 Commencement – Bring diploma and your camera.

Be sure to mark these dates and events on your calendar and be sure to take the time off work if needed.

Ordering Information

Gowns, caps, tassels, invitations and diplomas may be ordered from both online and local vendors. Each graduate's cap needs to be the same color as his or her gown, the tassel may be any color. If using a used gown remember to purchase a tassel. A few vendors are listed below.

HSLDA

<https://store.hslda.org/all-c19.aspx>

Homeschool Diploma

<http://www.homeschooldiploma.com/>