

## Class of 2021 – Graduation Packet

*Dear Graduate & Parent/Guardian – Class of 2021:*

*Thank you for making Mingus Union High School a part of your family's history. Long after your student has moved on, their face will grace our yearbooks and their stories will live on in our hearts and hallways.*

*Graduation from high school is a ceremony which carries a personal and familial significance. We look forward to honoring your student's academic achievements and sharing this special time with you. Our Mingus graduates and their guests deserve a dignified and memorable ceremony. We ask that attendees follow our instructions for the graduation ceremony so we can provide a safe and celebratory event. We hope our graduation ceremony successfully demonstrates the great pride that we have in our graduates, staff, and community.*

*As our seniors embark on their journeys beyond high school, please remember that you are and will always be Marauders and the Maroon Monkeys of 2021!*

*I look forward to sharing this very special evening with our graduates and their loved ones.*

*Sincerely,*



*Genie Gee  
Principal*

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Please read this packet, sign and return the below form to the Bookstore by May 14th, 2021

### **Graduation Agreement**

By signing below, I am agreeing to the expectations that are set for me regarding graduation. I understand that the graduation ceremony is a serious and dignified event. I understand that if I fail to follow expectations and guidelines for appropriate behavior and dress I will be removed from the ceremony.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
ID#

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Current Mailing Address:**

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***This form must be signed and returned to the Bookstore no later than May 14th, 2021 in order to participate in the Graduation Ceremony.***



## MINGUS UNION HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR PREPARATION FOR GRADUATION

April	26	Graduation tickets available in the HS Office (4 tickets per graduate)
May	4	AP Calculus Exam 8:00am
	6	AP US History Exam 8:00am
	7	Senior Sunrise Event 5:30am – football field
	7	AP Chemistry Exam 8:00am
	10	AP World History Exam 8:00am
	11	AP Psychology Exam 12:00pm
	12	AP Lang and Composition Exam 8:00am
	14	AP Biology Exam 8:00am
	17	AP Computer Science Principles Exam 8:00am
	20	Final Exams for Seniors – Periods 1, 3, 5
	21	Final Exams for Seniors – Periods 2, 4, 6
	24	Virtual Senior Honors Event – slide show available on the Mingus website
	27	5:00pm Graduation Practice – Gym (*Mandatory*) and Senior Sunset event
	28	6:00 pm *Graduates meet in Gym to line up* ( <i>Graduation begins 7:00 pm</i> )

### Graduation Information and Expectations

**Academic and Account Standing** – It is important that each student complete all necessary coursework required for graduation as determined by the Arizona Department of Education and Mingus Union High School. If you have any questions about graduation requirements or your student's status, please contact the Counseling Office at 928-634-7531 ext. 1402. All student account fees must be paid and all senior forms must be submitted by May 14th.

**Cap and Gown** - Order your cap, gown, and tassel by going to our website [www.mingusunion.com](http://www.mingusunion.com) click on the parent or student tab, then senior graduation store. You may also call 1-480-659-2040 to place an order. Caps and gowns may be picked up in the bookstore once order and payment are completed.

**Graduate Dress Code** - Our graduation ceremony is an important community tradition and a final learning experience for our proud students; our dress code reflects this belief.

- Men: dress shirt, pants/slacks, clean shoes (dress shoes are preferred and ties are optional)
- Ladies: dress, skirt, or dress pants/slacks – be careful with heel height, it's a long walk and we don't want you falling on your special night!
- No shorts, t-shirts, jeans, or flip-flops – no extremely informal attire
- No decoration on the graduation gown. No leis, boas, etc. – only school approved medals/cords are allowed.
- Graduation caps may be decorated, but the decoration must lay flat. No 3D or decorations hanging off the side. And decoration which would draw undue or negative attention is not permitted.
- **Red gown, cap, tassel:** the cap is to be worn flat on the head with the point at the center of the forehead and tassel on the right side

**Appropriate Behavior** - If your child participates in a senior prank and/or demonstrates behavior that is not school appropriate, he or she will forfeit the privilege of participating in senior activities and/or walking at Graduation. If damage is caused to the school, no matter how little, law enforcement will be involved. Any behavior that draws attention away from the speakers, performers, or individual graduates being honored, or detracts from the dignity of the ceremony itself will result in those involved being removed from the ceremony.

We ask our proud parents to please respect all of the graduates by remaining seated during the ceremony. Walking around on the field, engaging in conversations, or entering the student seating area for photographs is unfairly disruptive. Specific areas appropriate for photography will be demarcated. Please do not enter the graduates' seating area.

Blown up beach balls, poppers, silly string, bull horns, etc. are not appropriate. Graduation parties are more appropriate for celebrations of this nature. Please discuss this issue with your graduate. We want to do everything possible to make this a cherished memory for all of our students. A good rule of thumb, if the action takes away from the ceremony and focuses on an individual or group of individuals, then is it inappropriate and unacceptable. Thank you, in advance, for your understanding and cooperation.

**Location** - Graduation will be held on the Mingus Union High School football field, weather permitting.

**COVID Mitigation:** All attendees will need to wear a face covering. This is a requirement of the Governor's order for schools. Please use safe social distancing and wear a face covering at all times. Hand-washing stations and hand sanitizer will be available. There will be a traditional student processional into the ceremony **and a student processional out**. Students will head to the cafeteria to pick up diplomas and then to their vehicles. This processional out will give our graduates another moment of honor and will eliminate field crowding after the ceremony. Gatherings on the field will not be allowed this year.

**Diplomas** - Diplomas will not be inside the red cover at graduation. Graduates may pick up their diplomas immediately after graduation in the Cafeteria or at the high school office throughout the summer (8am – 3pm) beginning June 1st.

**Mandatory Graduation Practice** – Graduation information will be shared in senior Advisory classrooms. Graduation rehearsal is mandatory for all seniors on Thursday, May 27th at 5pm. Students who do not attend graduation rehearsal will not be permitted to participate in the graduation ceremony. If you have any questions, please contact the front office (Bridget Hillman) at 649-4386.

**Graduation Seating** - Each graduate will receive **four tickets total: two for field seating (grey) and two for seating in the stands (red).** **Students need to pick up the tickets at the High School Office beginning April 26th through May 21<sup>st</sup>.** Mingus Union High School will not manage ticket issues related to family dynamics.

The north football gates will open at **5:00 pm, Friday, May 28th**, for admission to the graduation ceremony. Seating in the bleacher area (**with ticket**) and the reserved on-field area (**with ticket**) is on a first come, first served basis, **with no saving of seats.** Admission to the handicapped seating will require that the person present their handicapped card/identification and that **only one other person accompany them – both must have red tickets.** Individuals who require special assistance can be dropped off at the gate and a cart will take them to the seating area.

**Parking** - Parking at the high school is limited – dropping off graduates early and carpooling is encouraged. Handicapped parking is available in the east parking lot by the cafeteria and is strictly monitored to assist those needing these spaces. Additional parking is available in the west lot, across Camino Real from the west lot, Fry's parking lot, and in the Faith Lutheran Church parking lot. Transportation (bus shuttles) to the school will be provided from these latter two parking areas both to the ceremony and back to the parking areas at the end of the ceremony.

**Live Stream Information** – Our graduation ceremony will be live-streamed on Verde Valley TV for family and friends to watch from home. Verde Valley TV is available on Sparklight channel 1056, Suddenlink Channel 2, and VerdeValleyTV.com We will send out the YouTube event link when the event is created – this will be available the week of the event.

**In Case of Rain** - In the event of inclement weather, we may have to move the ceremony inside; we will let you know by 5:00pm the day of graduation. We will contact families via our School Messenger\* phone service and also have a public service announcement on KYBC AM 1600, KVRD FM 105.7, KKLD FM 95.9, KVNA FM 100.1 and KQST FM 102.9.

**Operation Graduation 2021!!** – Operation Graduation is an annual, exciting event hosted by community members and parents to provide our graduates a safe and fun celebration for the Class of 2021! For more information or to volunteer, please contact Gretchen Groseta at [ggroseta@gmail.com](mailto:ggroseta@gmail.com) or Jennifer Reed at [jreed@muhs.com](mailto:jreed@muhs.com).



# Improving Safety at Graduation

Graduation is one of the most important events for high school seniors and their families. Even so, it is critical that schools acknowledge the risk associated with having in-person graduation and implement appropriate mitigation strategies to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and its variants. The [Schools Dashboard](#) provides county level indicators of spread. Yavapai County Community Health Services recommends appropriate layered mitigation that should help minimize COVID-19 transmission and improve the safety of students, staff, and their families. The CDC's [Events and Gatherings: Readiness and Planning Tool](#) may be helpful in planning graduation.

## Venue Selection

Selecting a venue with good ventilation that allows for physically distancing of at least 6 feet is important. Outdoor venues are highly recommended, but if that isn't possible, schools are strongly encouraged to improve airflow with open windows or doors. Fans can be used to pull outside air in, but never directly on attendees.

- Use multiple entrances and exits to avoid natural bunching (unless brief, less than 15 minutes); discourage crowding in waiting areas. Use signage and markers (arrows) to delineate ingress and egress for entry and departure; mark off 6 feet distancing at entrances to restrooms.
- Make sure hand washing stations are available; provide hand sanitizer if not available.
- Be sure to sanitize podium and microphone between presenters and speakers.
- Set up chairs to maintain distance between graduates.
- Designate 6-foot areas in stadium seating or auditorium between family pods.
- If providing snacks and drinks, ask for adult volunteers to serve them. Avoid open tables.

## Student & Attendee Behavior

- Encourage attendees to get vaccinated or tested for COVID-19, prior to attending graduation.
- Encourage attendees to stay home if they are not well, or if someone in their household is sick.
- Consider screening attendees prior to being admitted to graduation. Those who tested positive and haven't met release from isolation criteria, are a close contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case and need to quarantine, or present as asymptomatic should not be allowed to attend.
- Encourage all attendees to wear masks (have back-up free masks) at all times during the event.
- Encourage physical distancing to the greatest extent possible.
- Encourage frequent hand washing/sanitizing.
- Discourage graduates from hosting or attending after-graduation parties.

## Event Size & Duration

Larger gatherings, as well as longer gatherings, pose a higher risk of infection among attendees. Schools may make changes to the length or size of event to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

- Encourage limiting guests to 4 or less, issue tickets to control attendance.
- Review facility capacity and prepare for additional space to maintain social distancing.
- Arrange for the graduates to be ushered off field to avoid mass gathering.

