

# Graduation Information—Class of 2019

**Congratulations!** This is a special celebration in your life, and a time to be proud to show off your efforts and accomplishments thus far while looking forward to future endeavors and plans. We want graduation to be a valuable memory, a formal rite-of-passage into the next phase of your life.

## **Steps to be taken before Graduation day:**

1. If you are going to college in Texas, make sure you have applied to the school(s) of your choice through Apply Texas. All college-bound students need to have completed the FAFSA for financial aid. You need to have registered for a freshman orientation and have gotten your meningitis vaccination. Check your TSI status (test completed or exempt).
2. Start cleaning up school email accounts and saving any files you want to keep from your school Google drive to another format (flash drive, cloud, dropbox, etc.) Accounts will be deleted in June.
3. Deadline for scholarship letters is May 10. Get letters to Mrs. Childers by that date or they will not be listed in the graduation program.
4. Return all books, calculators, and class materials. Clear cafeteria accounts and all fees before graduation day.
5. Reserve graduation DVD in the office. Cost is \$10. Orders WILL NOT be taken at graduation.
6. Check cap and gown and try them on ahead of time. Steam out the wrinkles. If there is a problem, no adjustments can be on the day of graduation.
7. Participate in the Panther Walk and enjoy Senior Celebration with the PTA. The Senior Walk will be Thursday, May 23. Meet at the auditorium at the Intermediate school at 8:45. Seniors will then travel to the Junior High, Primary and Intermediate campus before returning to the auditorium for Senior Celebration practice.
8. Senior celebration is Thursday morning at 10:30 am at the L.L. Williamson Auditorium. Practice will be right before, at 10:00.

**\*\* Please note: The cutoff date to have all classes and graduation requirements completed is Thursday, May 23, at 4:00 pm. If you are not passing all your courses at that time you will not be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony. Also, a fines and fees list will be printed by Tuesday, May 21. All books and materials must be turned in and all fines and fees cleared before graduation or you will not be allowed to walk.**

### **Exam Information**

Exemption sheets will be handed out May 15 and will be due back on May 17. Final exams for seniors start Monday, May 20 (4, 5, 6), Tuesday, 21 (7, 8), Wednesday, 22 (1, 2, 3). Seniors will have early release on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday.

**Final Senior Meeting:** On Tuesday May 21, there will be a senior meeting that begins at approximately 11:15 am in the theater after senior exams are completed. If you are exempting all exams that day, make plans to be on campus for the meeting.

### **Friday, May 24, 2019**

**Graduation Practice:** Mandatory practice for graduation will be held at the Belcher Center, LeTourneau University at 1:00 pm. Please arrive and take a seat in the lower front section of the auditorium by 12:40 pm. When you pull into the LeTourneau campus in front of the Belcher Center, take a right and then a left into the parking lot to the south (right) of the auditorium. (You may also park here for the ceremony, and family and friends will park in the North parking lot, to the left of the Belcher Center.) We have a later practice time, so it is imperative we get started on time and run through practice efficiently. The sooner we get through the process, the sooner you will be released to get ready for the ceremony that evening. It may benefit you to wear your cap to practice, but gowns are not necessary. Ladies, you may want to bring your dress shoes. Please pick up all cords and cowls at practice so you can set your hats (Ladies, especially) and have them for pictures before the evening ceremony. You will receive a brown envelope at graduation practice with GLOBE scholar medallions (if you earned one) inside as well as various certificates and a final Newsflash. You may wear the medallion at the graduation ceremony. Speakers will remain after full-class practice to run through speeches.

**Graduation Ceremony:** Doors will open for the ceremony at 6:00 pm for graduates as well as family and friends. From 6-6:30 enjoy visiting with family and friends, taking pictures, and basking in the glory of your accomplishments. Report to the back hallway to line up at 6:30. The ceremony will begin promptly at 7:00 pm. Once the ceremony is complete, there will be a room set up at the Belcher Center for collection of NHS cowls, Student Council cords, and distribution of diplomas. Top 10% and red Blood Drive cords may be kept after graduation. There will be a time at the end of the ceremony for graduates to toss their caps in celebration, so please put your name in your cap if you want it returned. Leftover caps will be taken to the high school and may be picked up the Monday after graduation.

**Dress Code:** Graduation is a formal occasion. Dress and behavior should reflect this. We want this to be a special night for you and your family.

Ladies:

1. Solid color dress or solid skirt and blouse (not white if possible). If you are wearing a print dress, make sure it is not visible through the gown.
2. Solid color dressy shoes. No tennis shoes or flip flops. Sandals may be worn only if they have a hard sole and a heel. Remember, you will have to climb up and down the stairs to the stage and the steps of the risers to reach your chairs. Wear shoes you are comfortable walking and standing in for an extended time.
3. Be sure to bring safety pins, if needed, and bobby-pins to secure your hat.

Gentlemen:

1. Solid color dress pants (black, dark brown, navy, dark gray, khaki)
2. White long sleeve dress shirt
3. Tie
4. Solid color socks to match pants
5. Dress shoes (boots are permitted if they are clean and “dressy”) No tennis shoes or flip flops.

Remember you will be seated on the stage with all eyes on you:

1. No gum chewing, eating, or dipping during the ceremony. (Belcher Center rules!)
2. Save sunglasses, skates, scooters, etc. for outside.
3. Cap decorations are not allowed.
4. It is best to leave cell phones and other pocket paraphernalia with your family and friends.
5. Tassels go right to left. Be sure to switch them after you shake hands with the superintendent.

**Photographs:** A photographer will be taking pictures of the graduates receiving their diplomas and backstage with a formal backdrop. Please ask family members not to leave their seats to take pictures. DVD recordings of the entire ceremony will be available. You may pre-order your copy by signing up in the office. The cost is \$10 and only 45 will be ordered.

We ask that all graduates and audience members be respectful of the rules of the venue and the solemnity of the occasion. No saving seats. Thank you, in advance, for your cooperation.

**Address of Belcher Center:**

LeTourneau University  
Belcher Center  
2100 South Mobberly Avenue  
Longview, Texas, 75602