

# PMHS Class of 2020 Graduation Procedures

July 31, 2020 8:30pm

## Veterans Memorial Stadium

### Guidelines

Due to the evolving nature of our graduation plans for the Class of 2020, we have prepared the following information and Frequently Asked Questions to provide details for our parents, students, and community members.

In compliance with TEA outdoor graduation guidelines and current safety and health restrictions in place to protect against the spread of COVID-19, Pasadena ISD has instituted the following measures and requests that all graduates, guests, and staff adhere to these requirements:

1. ALL graduates, guests and staff will be required to complete and submit the COVID-19 Self Screening Tool prior to entry into the stadium.
2. Graduates must wear the **district-provided** face covering (mask) during the ceremony.
3. Graduates may **NOT** decorate their graduation caps/mortar board.
4. Graduates will be seated by homeroom on the field spaced 6 feet apart.
5. **NO** cell phones allowed on the field.
6. **Guests** are asked to bring and wear their own personal face coverings when arriving at the stadium and throughout the ceremony. Some exceptions apply.
7. Guests and family members of each graduate are **required to arrive and sit together** in the assigned section color of the bleachers and must be at least 6 feet away from any other family group at all times. Seating is marked with a blue/black box for guests to sit in groups of 4. Each group should occupy **ONLY** one blue/black box. Seating is available on a first-come, first served basis. Seats cannot be saved or reserved.
8. The medically fragile or aging population who are most at risk of contracting COVID-19 are asked to please stay home and enjoy the ceremony via Livestream at <https://www1.pasadenaisd.org/livestream>.
9. No smoking, vaping, or use of tobacco products are allowed on school district property.

**PLEASE NOTE – All graduation guidelines are subject to change prior to graduation. Pasadena ISD will continue to gain guidance from state and local health officials.**

### Senior Drop-Off and Guest Entrance Schedule

*Parents are asked to drop off graduates at the side of Phillips Field House by the scoreboard.*

Graduates in **EVEN** numbered homerooms must be dropped off on the **HOME (Press Box – Burke Road)** side of Phillips Field House and proceed to the check-in gate. Graduates in **ODD** numbered homerooms must be dropped off on the **VISITORS (Non-Press Box – Dabney Drive)** side of Phillips Field House and proceed to the check-in gate.



Stadium parking lots open at 7:00 p.m. Parking will be first come, first serve. Guests must stay in their cars until stadium gates are open and must use social distancing as they enter the gates.

### Parking Permits

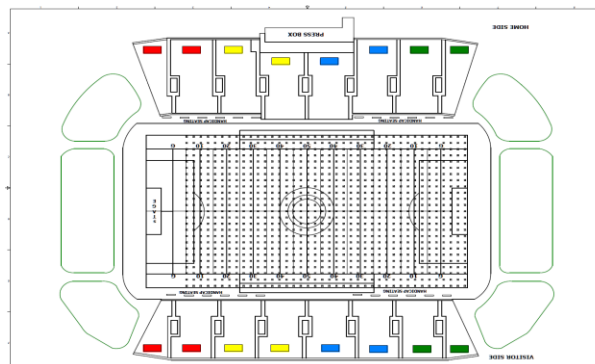
**One (1) parking permit per graduate and guests.** Due to the need to follow social distancing, we are requesting that all graduates and their guests arrive together. Place your parking permit/card on the dash of the front driver’s side window of your car.

### COVID-19 Screening Tool

A COVID-19 Screening Tool will be required upon entry to the stadium. PISD asks that **each graduate and guests** complete the COVID-19 self-screening tool (located in the student packet) **prior** to arriving at the stadium. If any graduate or guest answers yes to any of the questions, we ask that they do not attend the graduation ceremony. *The form is located in your graduation packet.*

### Wristband Allotment

Each family member/guest will receive a wristband as their ticket for entry into the stadium. Each Graduate will receive four (4) wristbands for guests. Graduates do NOT need a wristband. Wristbands are NOT available at the gate, and each guest must have a wristband. All four wristband-holders must sit together in the designated blue/black box. Wear your color-coded wristband around your wrist prior to entering the stadium. Guests will not be allowed into the ceremony without wearing the wristband.



**PLEASE NOTE – Seating capacity is subject to change prior to graduation. Pasadena ISD will continue to gain guidance from state and local health officials.**

### Seating at Veteran’s Memorial Stadium

Wristbands will be color-coded. Families will be assigned wristbands based on the side of the field on which their child is seated for graduation.

## **Stadium Restrictions**

No Large bags/Backpacks  
No Balloons or signs  
No Noise makers/Air horns  
No Flowers

## **Dress for Graduation**

This is a reminder that graduation is a dignified ceremony and we want all graduates to be dressed for the occasion, as their photo will be taken. Professional casual (NO SHORTS) is expected. Heels will NOT be allowed as these type of shoes can damage the turf. All graduates should wear flat soled shoes to protect the turf.

## **Before the Event**

We ask that all guests be seated by 8:15 p.m. in order for the ceremony to begin promptly at 8:30 p.m.

## **During the Event**

Late graduates will not be allowed on the field. Graduates will hand their name card to the announcer, walk across the stage, pick up a diploma cover, have their photo taken by a professional photographer, and then proceed back to their seat. Social distancing must be maintained at all times; therefore, there will be no handshakes allowed. Graduates may remove their mask for their graduation photo. Graduates will be allowed to gently toss their caps into the air, no more than 2-3 feet above their heads to maintain social distancing.

PISD district personnel will monitor social distancing in the stands during the graduation.

## **After the Event**

When directed, campus administration will dismiss everyone by section color. Please wait for your section to be dismissed and exit out of the stadium through the same gate they entered. Exit instructions will be announced over the PA system and on the video board.

Once students are dismissed from the field, they must proceed to the parking lot, meet their family, and promptly leave the football stadium.

Students and guests **WILL NOT** be allowed to congregate in the stadium parking lot or field after the ceremony. While exiting the stadium, please have patience during this process as we work to ensure the health and safety of all participants.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **1. How do we pick up wristbands and parking passes?**

We will use the same process that we did for Cap and Gown distribution. Graduates and parents will pick up their graduation packet during the following times:

July 28<sup>th</sup> Homerooms 12-01 through 12-6 from 9am – 10am  
Homerooms 12-07 through 12-14 from 10am – 11am

July 29<sup>th</sup> Homerooms 12-15 through 12-21 from 9am – 10am  
Homerooms 12-22 through 12-27 and 12-41 through 12-43 from 10am – 11am

Each graduating senior will receive a Graduation Packet which includes:

- Instructions
- Stadium Maps
- Color-coded wristbands for guests
- Parking pass
- COVID-19 Self Screening Tool for graduate and all guests

Graduates, family, and guests will need to display the Teal parking pass in the driver's side of their car dashboard upon entering the stadium parking lot and present the wristbands and Self-Screening Tool upon entering the stadium.

**2. Will there be guest limitations at Veteran's Stadium?**

Each graduate will be allowed four (4) guests. This is not our decision but rather the current restrictions regarding capacity of the stadium and having to separate people by six feet with social distancing requirements. We ask that you do not share your tickets with another family for health reasons.

**PLEASE NOTE – Seating capacity is subject to change prior to graduation. Pasadena ISD will continue to gain guidance from state and health officials.**

**3. Will Graduates be required to wear face masks?**

PISD will be providing face masks to all graduates upon entering the stadium. Students must wear the district provided face mask while entering and during the ceremony.

Guests will be asked to wear mask/covering as well. This is still a large event, and we want to make sure that everyone is safe from any risk of COVID-19. Please follow the CDC guidelines, which call for a face covering while in public. We are asking guests to wear mask/covering upon entering the stadium, throughout the ceremony, and exiting the stadium.

**4. Will there be a graduation rehearsal?**

No, the Texas Education Agency said we may not hold rehearsals. We will ask our graduates to follow instructions on the day of your ceremony. There will be no bus transportation. Graduates will arrive to the graduation ceremony with their families in one car. Graduates must arrive at Phillips Field House at 7:00 p.m. with their COVID-19 screening tool and carrying their gown. Graduation caps may be worn to the check-in.

**5. Will there be extra COVID-19 Screening Tool forms on site?**

Yes, but we ask that you complete the form for each graduate and guest prior to arrival and turn it in as you enter the stadium. COVID-19 Screening Tools are included in the graduation packet.

**6. If I'm not using my tickets, can I give them to someone else?**

Tickets are in groups of four and those four must sit together in the blue/black box in the matching section color in the stadium. Thus, we ask that you not give spare tickets to others because we will not have single or two-person seating options available.

**7. What should my graduate wear?**

Graduates should have their cap, gown, tassel, and any honor chords, stoles, and medals with them when they arrive at the stadium. Graduates will need to CARRY their graduation robe with them to the check-in gate. The graduation cap (mortar board) is to be worn straight and leveled (not tilted). **Students are NOT ALLOWED TO DECORATE THEIR CAP (MORTAR BOARD).** If students have not picked up or purchased their cap and gowns, please contact your campus AP over senior events for instructions on doing so. **PROFESSIONAL CASUAL ATTIRE (NO SHORTS) IS REQUIRED.**

**8. Will the graduation be Live Streamed?**

Yes, live streaming will be available on the district website at <https://www1.pasadenaisd.org/livestream>. The video will remain available for viewing for several months.

**9. Will handicapped seating be available?**

Yes, but handicapped seating is extremely limited and will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

**10. Can we hang signs or hold up a sign at graduation? What other items are prohibited?**

No. To ensure that every guest is able to enjoy the ceremony, signs are prohibited. Other prohibited items include air horns, noisemakers, animals, drones, umbrellas, balloons, flowers, and coolers.

**11. Will there be a concession stand?**

No. In order to be as sanitary and safe as possible, concessions will not be sold.

**12. Will there be a rain contingency plan?**

In the event of rain, an announcement will be made at 6:00 p.m. on the day of the graduation.

*The Pasadena Independent School District understands that the ceremony and plans may not have been ideal or conducive for all families and their needs. We are diligently working to make this ceremony and celebration of the Class of 2020 special and unique. We thank you for your patience and understanding that today's terms are not ideal for any of us. The graduation ceremony will be live streamed @ <https://www1.pasadenaisd.org/livestream>.*

***Please note: All graduation plans were made to adhere to the Texas Education Agency and Governor Abbott guidelines regarding social distancing to keep all graduates, guests and staff healthy and safe. Please NOTE – Guidelines and Protocols are subject to change.***