



Monmouth Academy

96 Academy Road, Monmouth, ME 04259

(207) 933-4416

<https://www.kidsrsu.org/o/ma>

Facebook: "Rick Maroon"

April 8, 2021

Dear Parent and/or Guardian (s) of an M.A. Senior:

February and March have passed, and, before we know it, May will be here! Yes, we are rapidly approaching graduation time! As I mentioned in my February graduation informational letter, all high schools have been checking and adjusting preliminary graduation plans based on current Covid data, the Governor's Executive Orders, Maine Department of Education (DOE) policies, and CDC guidelines. In mid-March principals received graduation guidance from the DOE (which was extremely restrictive) and then two days later the Governor modified her Executive Orders. Since then principals have been anxiously waiting for updated guidance from the DOE, which finally arrived this week.

Unfortunately, at this point I still cannot definitively share with you the specifics of our graduation ceremonies. However, since my last communication I met with our Senior class officers and class members for their feedback. They want to graduate together as a whole class via a traditional graduation ceremony (i.e. the entire class together versus multiple small group graduations). Of course, we will ensure this happens!

Presently, we are determining whether we can hold graduation ceremonies inside the Stuart L. Foster Gymnasium. Since the Governor has increased indoor gathering limits this might be possible. However, there are still many DOE guidelines we must follow (i.e. 6 foot spacing for families; Seniors 3 feet apart, and more) and this will cause a limited number of seats available for families (at a *minimum* 2 seats for parents, additional seats for step parents). Again, we just received the latest guidelines, so we are busy determining possible configurations. Our back-up plan is to have an outdoor ceremony (with limited seating as well due to DOE guidelines). Graduation will be livestreamed whether it is inside or outside.

Class of 2021 Ceremonies

- **MVC Honors Banquet: Thursday, May 13 6:30 p.m. Stuart L. Foster Gymnasium:** Each year, the Mountain Valley Conference recognizes high academic achieving Seniors from each of the Mountain Valley Conference member schools. Our Summa Cum Laude Seniors will be recognized at this ceremony. Typically, all MVC schools meet at one location for the banquet; however, due to Covid, this year the banquet will be a virtual event. Each school will broadcast live from their respective school.
- **Class Day: Friday, June 4 at 6 p.m.** Traditionally, this event is held in the Stuart L. Foster Gymnasium with parents, families, scholarship presenters, our student body, and the M.A. faculty in attendance. Last year, we live streamed this event due to Maine gathering limits. At this point, we are determining if we can have guests in attendance. Class Day will be livestreamed either way.

Class Day is a Monmouth Academy tradition that has existed for over sixty years. At this ceremony, a multitude of scholarships are awarded. A majority of these scholarships are managed by the Monmouth Academy Trustees and are named in honor of many M.A. graduates and former faculty members. Also, local scholarships are awarded. In addition, Seniors are recognized for their contributions to Monmouth Academy's clubs, organizations, athletic teams, music program, etc. Seniors who have achieved Summa Cum Laude for their high school career and Seniors with the highest academic content area scores are recognized. Finally, the *Will of the Class of 2021* is presented at this event.



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- **Graduation: Sunday, June 6, at 2 p.m.** If this becomes an outdoor ceremony, the time will change to 6 p.m. If graduation is outside, we will have a rain date in case of postponement. Graduation will be livestreamed whether it is indoors or outdoors.
- **Project Graduation:** Unfortunately, we will not be able to hold a traditional Project Graduation; however, we are working on some different ideas for our soon-to-be graduates.

MA Junior/Senior Prom: Saturday, June 5, 7-10 p.m. Yes, you read that correctly! As you are aware, many of our Seniors never were able to attend an MA Prom. Ms. Littlefield, Mrs. Damon-Therault, and I have been meeting to plan a prom that meets the DOE, Governor's Executive Orders, and CDC guidelines. This is certainly a challenging endeavor! Presently, our plan is to hold the Prom on the MA tennis courts (decorated, with a party tent and lights, and a DJ). Students and their guests will need to follow all Covid protocols and dance three feet apart (that will be a change!). We plan to have a "red carpet" type of walk from MMS to MA along the sidewalk that connects the schools. More details to follow.

As always, if you have any questions, please let me know. We look forward to celebrating your Senior's accomplishments!

Sincerely,

Rick

Rick Amero

Monmouth Academy Principal

ramero@kidsrsu.org

Monmouth Academy – Established 1803 **GRADUATION CEREMONIES INFORMATION**

Graduation Ceremonies Honors: Summa Cum Laude, Valedictorian/Salutatorian, Honor Speaking Parts, Honor Cords, MVC Honors Banquet (for Summa Cum Laude Seniors), etc.

As with each graduating class, a temporary "freeze" date is established to determine which Seniors meet the criteria for graduation honors. This year, that date was April 2. High schools must use a "freeze" date to plan for the many pieces that go into planning graduation ceremonies, ordering awards, as well as other events such as the MVC Honors Banquet and providing information to the media. Grades for all courses are considered for the purpose of determining rank and GPA. Note: Seniors will continue to progress in their courses from April 2 through May 28. Scores as of May 28 are recorded on the Senior's official transcript; therefore, there is always a slight variance from April 2 to May 28.

Seniors who have achieved a cumulative GPA of 3.75 and higher for their high school career as computed on April 2, 2021 will be recognized as "Summa Cum Laude". Speaking parts for Class Day and/or Graduation will be decided in order of the highest-ranking Summa Cum Laude recipients as of April 2, 2021. Honor Cords are awarded to Seniors who have achieved a cumulative GPA of 3.25 or higher for their high school career as computed on April 2, 2021.

In the coming week, we will enthusiastically inform Seniors who have achieved these honors.



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GRADUATION CEREMONIES – REQUIREMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS

Monmouth Academy graduation ceremonies shall be held to recognize those students who have successfully completed the required course of study. Since 1803, Monmouth Academy graduation ceremonies have been distinguished events and this tradition continues today.

To participate in any graduation ceremonies at Monmouth Academy, a senior must have:

- Been fully enrolled and maintained regular attendance throughout the 2020-2021 school year.
- Successfully completed **all** Monmouth Academy course and graduation requirements to receive a Monmouth Academy diploma by **3 p.m. on Wednesday, June 2, 2021**, in order to participate in any M.A. graduation ceremonies (Class Day or Graduation).
- Paid all bills or debts to Monmouth Academy and/or Regional School Unit 2. (This includes money owed for school-issued laptops, lost/damaged textbooks, lost/damaged athletic uniforms/equipment, lunch accounts, etc.)
- Attend marching practices, dress rehearsal, and Senior Stroll. These will be held Thursday, June 3 from 8:30-10 a.m. and Friday, June 4 from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- Because graduating students are ambassadors of the high standards instilled within Monmouth Academy and the community of Monmouth, **the following dress code and marching requirements must be followed:**
 - Dress or skirt (knee-length or longer), blouse, or formal pantsuit and dress shoes are required. Spike heels are not recommended.
 - Dress slacks or khakis, collared shirt, tie and dress shoes are required.
 - Clothing and Footwear **not** permitted: Jeans, Carharts (or similar), shorts, t-shirts, polo shirts, flip-flops, crocks, sneakers, boots, etc.
- Graduation cap and gown must be worn as manufactured (i.e. no decorating, writing, etc. on cap or gown). Graduation Gown may be adorned with only M.A. honor cords, National Honor Society sash, and/or National Technical Honor Society sash.
- Seniors may not bring or march with any items during graduation ceremonies (i.e. no balloons, stuffed animals, flowers, etc.)
- Any Senior participating in speaking parts or performances (including videos) during Class Day or Graduation, must have these pre-approved by the Principal and rehearsed with a member of the M.A. faculty.
- **Please note: Any student not complying with the dress code and/or marching expectations will be removed prior to the graduation ceremony (Class Day or Graduation).**
- If you need assistance getting proper clothing and/or footwear or have any questions please contact Mr. Amero. All requests and questions will remain confidential.