



717 South Harkness Street

Jackson, GA 30233

Telephone: 770-504-2340

---

Dear Parents and Community Members,

Congratulations to the class of 2021! This is truly an exciting and busy time for our seniors and their families. I wanted to take a moment to share some of our senior dates with you and any needed details. All of these events will be available on Facebook Live.

**May 7<sup>th</sup>** – Academic Signing Day – 1:45 PM in the JHS gym. This event is to celebrate the next steps in our senior’s lives. Any senior that has a confirmed acceptance into a college, tech school, jobs program, or the military should send that confirmation to our senior counselor, Dr. Brooks via email or in person. Her email is [lequeshia.brooks@bcssk12.org](mailto:lequeshia.brooks@bcssk12.org). The deadline for confirmations is May 3<sup>rd</sup>. We will hold a “signing ceremony” for all students and two parental/guardian guests. Each participant should receive an invitation via mail.

**May 20<sup>th</sup>** – Senior Honors Night at Rufus Adams Auditorium at 7:00 PM. All seniors that are honor graduates (3.7 GPA unweighted), those that are pathway completers and passed their End of Pathway Assessment, those seniors named for individual coursework awards, and/or any senior receiving a scholarship for less than \$1000.00 will be honored. Each senior will be able to have two parent/guardian guests attend.

**May 27<sup>th</sup>** – Graduation Rehearsal – 6:00 PM at Red Devil Hill

**May 28<sup>th</sup>** – 9:00 AM Dress Rehearsal at Red Devil Hill, Senior Group Picture, and Elementary School Walk. Senior picnic to follow at Red Devil Hill.

**May 28<sup>th</sup>** – 7:30 PM – Graduation at Red Devil Hill

### **GRADUATION CONTINGENCY PLANS for the Class of 2021**

If COVID numbers hold or improve, we plan on graduation taking place at Red Devil Hill on May 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm. To help our families plan for this exciting event, we would like to proactively inform you of our graduation contingency plan.

In the event that Mother Nature is not cooperating with our plans for a safe and sunny graduation on that Friday night for our deserving students in the Class of 2021, we may have to consider either a delay of the ceremony or postponing it until an alternate day.

On May 28<sup>th</sup>, we will monitor the weather until the last minute, and we will aim to make a decision on whether to delay or postpone graduation until around 5:00 PM on the Friday of graduation. If the rain is light, and there is little threat of lightning, we will proceed.

But if the threat of thunderstorms is too great and rain is heavy, we will put the safety of our students and guests first and postpone it until Saturday.

While we know that, it is disappointing and frustrating (and sometimes downright inconvenient!) when the weather does not cooperate, let’s work together, and ensure our kids see how proud we are of them. We cannot control the weather, but we can decide that we will celebrate and show our community pride regardless...RAIN OR SHINE! If we get wet or have to go into the gym, let’s have a positive (and SAFE) time doing it and supporting our graduates.

Mr. Will Rustin, Principal

Sohmer McKibben, Alisha Pearce, Theresa Lubin, Mickey Moody - Assistant Principals

Please see the weather contingency plan below:

--If it becomes necessary to postpone our ceremony to Saturday due to the threat of severe weather, our first option will be to hold graduation ceremonies in the stadium at Red Devil Hill on Saturday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 AM.

--If conditions have not improved and we still need more time, our next option would be to hold the ceremony in the stadium at Red Devil Hill on Saturday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00 PM.

--If weather conditions remain stormy in the afternoon, our next option will be in the stadium at Red Devil Hill on Saturday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 PM.

--It is POSSIBLE that if we see a "window" of opportunity on Friday or Saturday, we might propose a delay or adjusted schedule that might deviate from these published times. We would do this so that you have a higher chance of your family keeping a full 15 entry tickets and to have the ceremony in the stadium instead of the gym. If our parents will be willing to be flexible on times, we will try our best to have the graduation in the stadium *if* it is safe.

--Finally, if weather conditions do not improve throughout the day on Saturday, we will move the ceremony into the gymnasium on the JHS campus at 7 PM. We would most likely make a call on this about 3:00-4:00 PM on Saturday so that we have time to set up.

Please know that should we be forced to move the ceremony indoors, our seating capacity is far less than the stadium. Thus, if we move the graduation to the gym, each senior will be provided with FIVE (5) "rain tickets."

Thus, the fifteen (15) tickets that students were issued for the ceremony at Red Devil Hill will not be valid, and new tickets with a different color for the indoor ceremony will be issued to students on Saturday. We recommend that each family go ahead and discuss this contingency and plan ahead as to how they would distribute their student's five (5) tickets.

We will also conduct a Facebook LIVE feed of the graduation for family members who are not able to attend the ceremony. In preparation for that, we recommend that family members subscribe to Facebook and "Like" the Butts County Schools' Facebook Page.

We hope this information will be helpful as you plan family gatherings and celebrations around graduation. Again, it is our preference that we are able to facilitate a safe and enjoyable ceremony in the stadium at Red Devil Hill on Friday night.

Please contact me via email if you have any questions. Congratulations to the Class of 2021!