OFFICE OF THE DEAN

February 17, 2017

We hope this message and the updates to follow will help as you plan for the end of the school year. We are excited and proud to honor the Class of 2017 with our Commencement exercises. The Thursday evening Celebration of Achievement will be held at First Baptist Church, Greenville (847 Cleveland Street) and the Friday afternoon Commencement Ceremony will be held at the TD Convention Center (1 Exposition Drive). Maps of these facilities will be provided at a later date.

Wednesday, May 24

All classes will be held through 3:00 PM on Wednesday, May 24.

12:00 to 1:00 pm and
3:00 pm to 7:00 pm Returned iPads - All students (E225)
3:00 pm to 7:00 pm Students who are not participating in the Commencement Ceremony must check out at this time.
5:00 pm to 6:30 pm Dinner
5:00 pm to 6:30 pm Senior Send-Off, Courtyard

Thursday, May 25

7:30 am to 8:45 am Breakfast
9:00 am Graduates assemble in gym for rehearsal
9:15 am Rehearsal - Buses depart for TD Convention Center
10:30 am Music students depart for rehearsal
12:00 pm to 3:30 pm Residence hall check-out for graduation participants (optional)
12:00 pm to 1:30 pm Bag lunches provided (no hot lunch option)
1:00 pm to 3:30 pm Field Day Events
4:00 pm to 5:00 pm Dinner
5:00 pm Graduates assemble in gym for processional
5:15 pm Graduate processional, SCGSAH Campus
6:30 pm Celebration of Achievement, First Baptist Church (All seniors – Family and friends are invited. House opens at 6:00 pm.)

Friday, May 26

8:00 am to 11:30 am Residence hall check-out
8:00 am to 9:00 am Continental breakfast, SCGSAH Dining Hall
1:15 pm Graduates assemble at TD Convention Center, Room 203
2:00 pm Commencement Ceremony, TD Convention Center Ballroom (House opens at 1:15 pm.)
Details for Families and Students

Because our commencement venues may accommodate a large number of attendees, no tickets are necessary for guests attending either the Celebration of Achievement or the Commencement Ceremony.

Procession
Seniors will process through campus at 5:15pm on the afternoon of the Celebration of Achievement. The front gates are opened and the President and Dean present a medal to each student as he or she walks through the gates. Students will then be bused to the First Baptist Church for the Celebration of Achievement.

Celebration of Achievement
The Celebration of Achievement will consist of reflections on achievements of the Class of 2017 from art and academic departments. Students will be presented with graduation cords at this ceremony. Individual awards will not be announced from the podium, but they will be listed in the printed program. Students who know of awards of which the school may not be aware should submit information via the graduate survey. (See below for more information.) The school will select those awards appropriate for inclusion in the program. Seniors will be seated together in a specially designated section of the venue and should wear attire appropriate for attending a performance.

Dress for Commencement
Graduating seniors are expected to dress in accordance with the honor and solemnity of the commencement exercises. Men should wear dark pants, dark dress shoes, white shirts, and dark ties. Ladies should wear dresses, skirts, or dress slacks, and dark shoes. Students must wear graduation regalia (cap, gown, tassel) to participate in the ceremony.

Diploma
All graduating seniors will receive a South Carolina High School Diploma from the Governor’s School for the Arts and Humanities. Scholar’s Diplomas will be awarded only to students who meet all criteria as outlined in the Student Handbook, p. 2-2.

Graduate Survey
All graduating students are required to complete a survey indicating their college choices, awards, and future contact information. This data allows the school to celebrate students’ accomplishments and track the success of our graduates. This survey also indicates any special needs for the graduation festivities. Students may access the survey here: [http://www.scgsah.org/commencement.php](http://www.scgsah.org/commencement.php) Surveys must be completed by Monday, May 1.

Hotels
Several hotels in the area have reduced rates for Governor’s School families. Please check the SCGSAH Website for the most up-to-date information about local hotel ([http://www.scgsah.org/places-to-stay.php](http://www.scgsah.org/places-to-stay.php)). Be sure to mention that you are with the Governor’s School.

Special Needs
If you or one of your student’s guests for the Celebration of Achievement or Graduation will have a special need, such as wheelchair access or a sign language interpreter, please submit this information via the graduate survey.

Streaming
The school will broadcast a streamed video of both the Celebration of Achievement and the Commencement Ceremony for guests unable to attend in person via the school’s Livestream channel ([livestream.com/scgsah](http://livestream.com/scgsah)).