March 5, 2019

Dear Smithville Seniors and their Parents and Guardians:

We are weeks away from graduation to be held on May 26th. This most important ceremony commemorates the completion of your long academic journey. The remaining days are important and will determine whether your diploma is awarded. The following items require your attention and should be considered essential to planning for senior activities. Please mark your calendar accordingly.

**Power School Fees**

This year, registration was completed online. Class fees, etc. were assessed in late September. Please make sure to check power school and pay your fees as soon as possible and keep your lunch account current. Parents may pay these fees online through their power school portal.

**Pictures for Senior Slide Show**

Pictures are due no later than April 19th. This deadline is FIRM! Seniors must email two photos (no collages), one youth and one present (.jpg) for inclusion in the senior slide show to Miss Hanrion at hanrionl@smithville.k12.mo.us.

**Senior Class Photos and Senior Recess**

April 2nd is the date of Junior ACT testing, consequently, seniors are invited to attend the Senior Recess and Parent Luncheon. Seniors are asked to report to Smith’s Fork Park by the tennis courts at 8:00 AM. If weather is bad, we will have recess inside at Family Worship Center (across from the high school). Check in with Mrs. Williams for attendance upon arrival. Students are encouraged to bring tennis rackets/balls, basketballs, Frisbees, sidewalk chalk, and plan to have a great time with classmates. Lunch will be served at Recess by senior parents. Parents/Guardians, if you are interested in helping or donating items, please contact Petra Williams. Seniors must travel back to SHS by 12:30 PM. While at Recess, Reed Portrait Group will be present to take the annual senior class photo and 13 years together photo. Wear your class t-shirt or a green shirt for the photo.

**Senior Finals Schedule**

The senior regular classroom final examination schedule will be communicated to you by your individual teachers. The advanced placement schedule is listed below. Please be aware that due to excessive inclement weather and missed days, this schedule may be adjusted. Your AP teacher will communicate this change to you. The AP Finals Schedule at this time is as follows:

Monday, May 6: United States Government, 8:00-11:30 (69 students)

Tuesday, May 7: Spanish Language, 8:00-12:30 (8 students)

Tuesday, May 7: Physics 1: Algebra-Based, 12:00-3:00 (1 student)

Wednesday, May 8: English Literature, 8:00-12:00 (22 students)

Thursday, May 9: Psychology, 12:00-3:00 (56 students)

Friday, May 10: United States History, 8:00-12:00 (22 students)

Monday, May 13: Biology, 8:00-12:00 (7 students)

Monday, May 13: Physics C: Mechanics, 12:00-2:00 (5 students)

Tuesday, May 14: Calculus AB/BC, 8:00-12:30 (56 students)

Wednesday, May 15: English Language, 8:00-12:00 (65 students)

Thursday, May 16: Comparative Government, 8:00-11:30 (47 students)

Thursday, May 16:  World History, 8:00-12:00 (66 students)

Thursday, May 16:  Statistics, 12:00-3:00 (42 students)

**Senior Awards Night**

On behalf of the Smithville High School faculty and staff, seniors, parents and guardians will be honored at a special evening ceremony on May 16th at 7 PM in the SHS Performing Arts Center. This event acknowledges the scholarship and accomplishments seniors earned during their time at SHS. Awards received by an entity other than SHS should be given to your school counselor by May 10th.

**Senior Check Out**

Senior Check Out sheets will be passed out during Warrior time on Wednesday, May 8. Seniors must acquire signatures from SHS personnel as noted on the check out sheet. If you have questions or unresolved issues needing attention, please contact your school counselor or administrator in advance of checkout. On May 16th the Technology Department will be in the PAC. You will turn in your chrome book and charger. Be sure it is clean and free of decals. You will receive an email with your appointment date and time. Take your checkout sheet along with your chrome book and charger to this appointment.

Completed checkout sheets are to be returned on May 17 between 1:00 PM and 3:00 PM in the PAC. Students who have not taken care of school business requirements will not be awarded a diploma at commencement.

**Senior’s Last Day and Parade**

Monday, May 20 is the senior’s last day. Seniors are to arrive by 7:40 AM and meet in the PAC. We will begin the day at 8:00 AM with the senior slide show. Wear your cap and gown. Unlike graduation, seniors do not have to wear formal dress attire under their gowns. Seniors can walk with whomever they choose at this event. Family members are invited to attend. This event is focused solely on seniors. No individual senior awards will be handed out at this event. After the slideshow, seniors will board buses and parade through the other schools in your cap and gown attire.  When seniors return to SHS, they are dismissed.

**Graduation Practice**

Practice will be held Sunday, May 26th. Seniors will board buses no later than 12 noon at SHS and travel to the Silverstein Eye Centers Arena to practice for the commencement ceremony. Students are to eat lunch prior to boarding the bus. Students will practice and a light snack and drink will be provided. This practice is REQUIRED for seniors participating in the ceremony. Seniors are not to drive to this event, but must ride the bus provided. Graduates must remain at the arena until the graduation ceremony ends. After graduation, students ride home with family members. The arena and parking lot must be cleared following the ceremony due to another previously scheduled activity.

**Graduation/Commencement Ceremony**

Smithville graduation is a scholarly event affording students parent and guests the opportunity to celebrate a student’s highest academic achievement to date. In 2019, commencement ceremonies will be held indoors at the Silverstein Eye Centers Arena, Independence MO 64055. Tickets are not needed to attend the ceremony. Doors to the building will open at 2:00 PM. The ceremony begins at 3:00 PM.

Students who have met ALL requirements for graduation will be allowed to participate in the ceremony according to the following conditions:

Each student must have completed the senior checkout process and all educational and financial obligations have been fulfilled.

Proper dress is required for students to participate in the commencement ceremony. Men are to wear a shirt and tie with dress slacks and dress shoes. Women must wear a dress or shirt and slacks and appropriate dress shoes. Students may NOT decorate the top of their graduation cap. Sunglasses, flip-flops, tennis shoes, hats, jeans, stickers, balloons, fireworks, beach balls and/or noisemakers will **NOT** be permitted during the ceremony. **Seniors not wearing appropriate apparel will not be permitted to participate – NO EXCEPTIONS!**

Leather diploma covers will be presented to seniors during the ceremony. The official diploma will be issued after commencement. Diplomas are awarded upon verification all school obligations have been met, and proper decorum was maintained during the ceremony.

Again, my sincere congratulations to seniors for a job well done! I will make every effort to ensure your last weeks at Smithville High School are memorable and ask that you approach this time with equal commitment. Should you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact the office.

Sincerely,

Dr. Tracy Platt

SHS Principal