

**Heritage Academy Mesa**  
**2022 Commencement Handbook**

Seniors,

It is almost the time that you have been anxiously awaiting...graduation is upon you! Heritage Academy Mesa is dedicated to providing you and your families with a formal, celebratory commencement ceremony. In our effort to provide that, we ask that you read through the following guidelines and adhere to all policies.

Details for the commencement exercises are as follows:

**Thursday, May 19th at 7:00 pm.**  
**Mesa Convention Center - Building C**  
**263 North Center Street**  
**Mesa, AZ 85201**

There will be open seating this year for graduation. No tickets will be issued. Feel free to invite your family and friends to celebrate your graduation.

**Important Dates/Times:**

**Wednesday, May 11** - Senior Dinner and tie-dye Heritage polo shirts

**Wednesday, May 18** - Senior Sunset and LAST DAY OF SCHOOL!

**Thursday, May 19** - Graduation Rehearsal at Convention Center at 10:30 a.m. Be on time. Dollars for Duds attire.

**Thursday, May 19, - Graduation, arrive at 6:00 p.m.** in appropriate semi-formal clothing with cap & gown to line up for the ceremony.

**GRADUATE EXPECTATIONS**

Heritage Academy Mesa expects the same dress code standards to be upheld throughout the course of graduation. Please make sure you are prepared with the following:

- Caps and gowns should be clean and pressed and worn zipped up. Be careful ironing them as they are synthetic and can melt. Cap & gown should be worn throughout the entire ceremony.
- Under cap and gown - Heritage Academy formal dance (semi - formal) dress required. *From the Scholar Handbook* - Dresses are to have sleeves. Necklines must not reveal cleavage. The backs of dresses should be above mid-back. Midriffs should not be revealed. All dresses must come to the knee, in the front and the back, when sitting or standing. Suits, tuxedos, or collared shirts, ties and slacks. No jeans, shorts, or flip flops. Men must be clean-shaven with hair within the guidelines.
- The cap is worn flat on the head.

- No other ornamentation will be allowed on your cap or worn over the gown with the exception of stoles, awards, or distinctions handed out by the school.
- Each scholar will receive a medallion which will be worn on top of the gown. This is yours to keep.
- Tassels are to be worn on the right side and shifted to the left when graduates are instructed to do so.
- Cell phones are to be put away and not seen nor heard for the duration of the ceremony. Absolutely no cell phones on stage.

### **GUEST EXPECTATIONS**

This is a joyous occasion and we are so thrilled to share this evening with you, your friends and families. Please review the following guidelines with those who will be in attendance.

- Open seating begins at 6:15 PM. Please arrive with plenty of time to be seated 10 minutes before the ceremony begins.
- Open seating is on a first come, first-served basis. Any saved seats will need to be forfeited at 6:40 for other attendees.
- Doors will close at 6:55 PM for the procession of graduates. Doors will reopen after the graduates have taken their seats. Please plan accordingly.
- Please remain in your seat for the duration of the ceremony.
- Professional photographers will be on hand and are the only individuals who will have access to the aisles and stage.
- If your child(ren) becomes restless or loud, please take them to the lobby.
- Noisemakers of any kind are strictly prohibited. Anyone caught with noise makers will have the items confiscated and potentially be escorted from the venue.
- Balloons and signs are also strictly prohibited. Please do not bring them to the venue as you will be asked to leave them outside or in your car.
- Please express your love and appreciation for your graduate while maintaining respect for those graduates who are following. Please applaud to express your love and refrain from calling out names. Everyone would like to be able to applaud their graduates.
- Please remain in your seats until the graduates have exited the stage. You will be able to greet your graduate after the ceremony.
- Please turn off your cell phone as cell phones will interfere with the sound system.
- No food or drinks other than water allowed.
- The commencement ceremony will be viewable live on our YouTube channel and Facebook Live. A specific URL will be sent out closer to the date.

**Thank you for your cooperation as we celebrate  
the amazing accomplishments from our Class of 2022.**