

Dear Parents and Guardians of Graduating Seniors:

Plans for our 117th Commencement Ceremony are well under way. We would like to share some information with you that may prove helpful as you and your family prepare for the event.

Our Graduation Ceremony is scheduled for **Friday, May 17th, at 7:00 p.m. at McKenzie Arena**. Candidates for graduation should arrive no later than 6:15 p.m. Staff will be on hand to provide directions. The graduation ceremony will begin promptly at 7:00 p.m. The seniors must be dressed appropriately. Boys need to wear dress pants (no jeans), dress shirt (preferably white) and tie, dress shoes and dress socks. Ladies need to wear a dress, skirt or dress pants (suitable for interview), dress blouse, dressy but comfortable shoes. No extremely high heels or backless shoes should be worn because of the steps. Graduates cannot wear slides, crocs, tevas, flip-flops, athletic type shoes, work boots, hiking boots, or combat style boots. Keep in mind safety going up and down steps. Students will leave their purses at home or with a family member. Please, no cell phones. **Caps and gowns must be worn unaltered, no personalizing or decorating caps or gowns. Only school issued caps, gowns, and honor stoles and cords may be worn.**

Tickets are required to enter McKenzie Arena for the graduation ceremony. Each senior will receive 16 tickets, which are included in this packet. All individuals over the age of 5 must present a ticket to UTC personnel upon entry.

Graduates will receive a name card that will be used to call their name during the awarding of diplomas. Handwritten alterations to name cards will not be called. As students walk across the stage, they will receive their diploma covers. Diploma packets will be distributed as the seniors return to their seats after the diploma march. If students have outstanding obligations, diplomas must be picked up at school on Monday, May 20. **Students who disrupt graduation or who do not follow the requirements can have their diplomas withheld.**

Graduation practice is on Tuesday, May 14, at 10:30 a.m. at McKenzie Arena. Seniors must attend practice in order to walk at the graduation ceremony.

Graduation is a time of celebration, but it is also a formal and serious occasion. We join in your excitement and joy as our students mark this milestone in their lives. This is a special day for all the students, and we would like each of them to be duly recognized. **For every name to be heard and for all students to be acknowledged by their families, please refrain from yelling, screaming, using air horns, cowbells or other forms of noisemakers.** Please respect the rights of all parents who want the same privilege. We would like to enlist your help in speaking to family members and friends about this issue. **McKenzie Arena does not allow balloons inside the venue.** All graduates and guests will enter through metal detector and bag check area. Please see McKenzie Arena website for a complete list of venue requirements.

Lifetouch will photograph graduates as they receive their diploma, ordering information will be available at graduation ceremony. The stage area will be off limits to those other than graduates and school staff.

We are planning for this to be the best graduation ever: one that both students and parents will remember as a fitting commemoration of all the hard work, dedication, and love that went into making this occasion possible. Thank you for entrusting your sons and daughters to our care, and thank you for your help in making this year's ceremony a success.

Sincerely,
Mr. Phil Iannarone Ed.S.
Principal, Central High School

