

Dear Parents/Guardians of Class of 2022 Graduates:

The *Class of 2022*'s senior year has been unlike anything any of us expected; yet, through it all, our graduation candidates have remained focused to meet graduation requirements and have shown great resilience. As such, we would like to honor the culmination of their achievements by having a beautiful ceremony for you and their honored guests.

We would like to inform you of the specifics for the commencement ceremony.

### **Graduation Date**

The graduation schedule is as follows:

Tuesday, May 24, 2022: Lyndon B. Johnson High School  
Wednesday, May 25, 2022: John B. Alexander High School  
Friday, May 27, 2022: United South High School  
Saturday, May 28, 2022: United High School

Entrance for all graduates will be through GATE A (NORTH DOORS).  
Each ceremony will be no longer than two hours in length.

### **Location**

The *Class of 2022 will* be graduating at the Sames Auto Arena located at 6700 Arena Blvd. at 7:00 p.m. GATES will open at 6:00 p.m.

### **Voluntary Participation**

Student participation in graduation/commencement ceremonies shall be on a voluntary basis. An eligible student who chooses not to participate will need to pick up his/her diploma at their respective school after the scheduled graduation ceremony.

### **Tickets/Seating**

Every graduate will receive between 7-10 (depending class size) official Ticketmaster Tickets which will be scanned upon entry. There will be no assignment of seats. Be sure to ask your graduate if they will be sitting on the north or south side of the arena. No one will be admitted without a ticket regardless of age (Infants/toddlers will require a ticket). Upon leaving the premises there will be no re-entry. Tickets are complimentary and are not meant to be sold. This event is monitored by the City of Laredo Fire Department who may deem it necessary to close the doors due to building code capacity. It is highly recommended that you arrive with ample time to ensure entry and seating in the Sames Auto Arena. Saving seats is not allowed.

### **Time of Arrival**

All graduates must arrive at Gate A one hour before the event. The graduates must arrive in full graduation attire. Only graduates and faculty will be allowed through GATE A. Upon arrival, graduates will find their seat on the floor. Each chair will be labeled with the name of the graduate. Due to time constraints, extreme heat in the back area of the arena, and our large graduating class, there shall be no processional. Graduates will stand by their chair when pomp and circumstance music is played. **Graduates will receive their diploma at their seat and shall walk up across the stage with their diploma when their name is called.** A picture of each graduate with the diploma will be taken and graduates shall be featured on the jumbotron.

## **Masks**

It is recommended that all visitors and graduates wear a mask or face covering. The graduates will receive a mask with their school logo when they pick up their gradation packet. Once again, the mask is only for those who want to wear one.

## **Graduation Attire**

Check your student's cap and gown for fit before the graduation ceremony.

Girls: cap and gown worn over an outfit. Because of the layers of mat on the stage, stiletto shoes will not be allowed. High heels in a wedge fashion are permitted; no gum, candy or purses are allowed. Mortarboards are worn flat on their head. The district will allow graduates to customize their caps in a tasteful (non-offensive) manner.

Boys: gowns over pants/shirt; no gum, candy, or purses are allowed. Mortarboards are worn flat on their head. The district will allow graduates to customize their caps in a tasteful (non-offensive) manner.

## **Live Broadcast**

The District will continue to provide a live broadcast of each graduation for those who are unable to attend the ceremonies at the Sames Arena. The live broadcast may be accessed from the United I.S.D.'s website: <http://www.uisd.net>

## **Access to Stage Floor Restricted**

To ensure the safety of all students, family and staff, access to the floor will be restricted at all times. Only UISD employees who have been designated to assist with the graduation will be allowed on the floor.

## **Restricted Items**

The Sames Auto Arena does not allow large bags, backpacks, food/drinks, strollers, confetti, streamers, noisemakers, balloons, large posters, or tripods for cameras into the arena. The Sames Auto Arena will enforce the bag policy. Only clear plastic, vinyl that do not exceed 12 x 6 x 12 are allowed.

## **Concessions**

Concessions will be open and items will be sold by Arena staff.

## **Graduation Memorabilia/Flowers**

A school organization has been designated to sell graduation memorabilia. Their booths will be located in the foyer of the arena. School will sell flowers and/or school memorabilia on the premises.

## **Photos**

The District has contracted Grandinetti Photography to take photos of all graduates at the front of the stage area as their name is called. The District has committed to the purchase of a 5x7 photograph of each student to serve as a memento for the graduates and their families. The company will mail this photo to your home address. Parents may purchase additional photos from the company.

## **Personal Photos**

Video cameras and cameras are allowed into the arena; however, no tripods are allowed. Access to the floor will not be allowed at any time. Professional hired photographers will not be given access to the floor.

**After graduation—Where to meet your graduate**

Graduates will exit through Gates A, B, C, D immediately after the ceremony, parents and guests can meet the graduates outside of the arena.

United ISD will continue to enhance graduation preparations to ensure that the ceremony is a successful, safe and memorable event. We look forward to celebrating with you and your graduate.