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David A. Cox, Ed.D.

May, 2012

Dear Parent/Guardian and Graduating Senior:

Congratulations to you on reaching this significant milestone along your educational journey! High school commencement marks a new beginning and is a day of joy and celebration for all participants.

Commencement is also an academic ceremony with many years of history and tradition that we share with our community, family and friends. In the interest of preserving the rich tradition associated with commencement in the Allegany County Public Schools, the Board of Education has adopted guidelines to remind everyone that while it is a celebration, it will be conducted with dignity.

Please read the guidelines below and indicate on the form provided that you have read and understand the expectations of graduates, family members and guests planning to attend graduation this year. Returning the signed form to your principal in a timely manner is a condition for participating in the graduation ceremony

In the event any senior does not wish to abide by the guidelines below, arrangements can be made by request to obtain your diploma at another mutually agreeable time. Graduating seniors may forfeit the privilege of participating in graduation.

DRESS CODE FOR SENIORS

Males

Dress Slacks
Dress shirt with tie
Dress shoes
Socks

Females

Dress or
Dress slacks/skirt with blouse
Dress shoes

Note: jeans, t-shirts, sneakers, flip-flops or beach sandals are inappropriate attire.

SECURITY

The willful disruption of a public school activity is a misdemeanor offense according to the Annotated Code of Maryland (Article 26-101). All graduation ceremonies will be staffed by security personnel with authority to remove and prosecute any graduating senior, family member or guest who willfully disrupts the proceedings. In the event a graduating senior is removed from the ceremony, the diploma may be obtained at a later date.

Disruptive behavior includes, but is not limited to, disrespectful conduct directed at speakers, school personnel or guests, talking, shouting or otherwise making unauthorized noise during the ceremony, unauthorized movement from the seating area which disturbs the ceremony, or possession/use of silly string, beach balls, balloons, signs, noise-makers, confetti or similar items.

“Better Schools, Brighter Futures”

PHOTOGRAPHS/VIDEOTAPES

Each individual school will determine guidelines, procedures, and a designated area for taking pictures and/or videotapes during the graduation ceremony.

Graduation is a special event for everyone's enjoyment. The Allegany County Public School System will take appropriate steps to ensure that it is a memorable occasion for all participants.

Sincerely,



David A. Cox, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools



Dear Principal:

I have read, understand, and agree to abide by the guidelines adopted by the Board of Education of Allegany County governing participation in high school graduation. I understand the possible consequences for failure to abide by these guidelines.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Note: This form must be signed and returned to your high school principal by _____. All students must return a signed form as a requirement for participating in the graduation ceremony.