

Class of 2023 – Graduation Packet

Dear Graduate & Parent/Guardian – Class of 2023:

Thank you for making Mingus Union High School a part of your family's history. Long after your student has moved on, their face will grace our yearbooks and their stories will live on in our hearts and hallways.

Graduation from high school is a ceremony which carries a personal and familial significance. We look forward to honoring your student's academic achievements and sharing this special time with you. Our Mingus graduates and their guests deserve a dignified and memorable ceremony. We ask that attendees follow our instructions for the graduation ceremony so we can provide a safe and celebratory event. We hope our graduation ceremony successfully demonstrates the immense pride that we have in our graduates, staff, and community.

As our seniors embark on their journeys beyond high school, please remember that you are and will always be Marauders and the Gray Wolves of 2023!

I look forward to sharing this incredibly special evening with our graduates and their loved ones.

Sincerely,

Genie Gee
Principal

Please read this packet, sign, and return the below form to the Bookstore by Friday, May 12th, 2023.

Graduation Agreement

By signing below, I agree to adhere to the expectations that are set for me regarding graduation. I understand that the graduation ceremony is a distinguished and dignified event. I understand that if I fail to follow expectations and guidelines for appropriate behavior and dress, I will be removed from the ceremony.

Student Signature Print Name ID# Date

Parent Signature Date

Current Mailing Address:

This form must be signed and returned to the bookstore no later than May 12th, 2023, to participate in the Graduation Ceremony.

MINGUS UNION HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR PREPARATION FOR GRADUATION

May	1	Graduation tickets available in the HS Office (4 field tickets per graduate)
	18	Final Exams for Seniors – Periods 1, 3, 5
	19	Final Exams for Seniors – Periods 2, 4, 6
	22-26	Senior Week - Details to Come!
	22	5:30pm Senior Honors Night
	26	7:00am Graduation Practice – Gym (*Mandatory*)
	26	6:00 pm *Graduates meet in Gym to line up* (<i>Graduation begins 7:00 pm</i>)
	26	Operation Graduation 2023! 9:30pm at the Cottonwood Rec Center

Graduation Information and Expectations

Senior Honors Night - We are extremely proud of the academic accomplishments of our seniors. We will hold a special ceremony on Monday, May 22nd in the Mingus Union High School auditorium at 6:00 p.m. There will be a reception with light refreshments prior to the event at 5:30pm. If your student is being recognized for an award or scholarship, they will receive an invitation; however, all seniors and their families are welcome to attend. The attire for this evening is professional business attire.

Academic and Account Standing – It is important that each student complete all necessary coursework required for graduation as determined by the Arizona Department of Education and Mingus Union High School. If you have any questions about graduation requirements or your student's status, please contact the Counseling Office at 928-634-7531 ext. 1402. All graduates must pay any outstanding student account fees and turn in all senior paperwork by May 12th. All Chromebooks, textbooks, library books, and athletic uniforms must be returned prior to graduation, or a fee will be assessed, and all fees on accounts must be paid. Students will not be permitted to walk in the graduation ceremony if they have outstanding fees.

Cap and Gown - Order your cap, gown, and tassel by going to our website www.mingusunion.com click on the parent or student tab, then senior graduation store. Students may pick up their caps and gowns in the bookstore once the order and payment are complete.

Graduate Dress Code - Our graduation ceremony is an important community tradition and a final learning experience for our proud students; our dress code reflects this belief.

- Men: dress shirt, pants/slacks, clean shoes (dress shoes are preferred and ties are optional)
- Ladies: dress, skirt, or dress pants/slacks – be careful with heel height, it is a long walk, and we do not want you to take a fall on your special night!
- No shorts, t-shirts, jeans, or flip-flops – no extremely informal attire
- No decoration on the graduation gown. No leis, boas, etc. – only school approved medals/cords are allowed.
- Graduation caps may be decorated, but the decoration must lay flat. No 3D or decorations hanging off the side. *And decoration which would draw undue or negative attention is not permitted.*
- **Red gown, cap, tassel:** the cap is to be worn flat on the head with the point at the center of the forehead and tassel on the right side.

Appropriate Behavior - If your child participates in a senior prank and/or demonstrates behavior that is not school appropriate, he or she will forfeit the privilege of participating in senior activities and/or walking at Graduation. If damage is caused to the school, no matter how little, law enforcement will be involved. Any behavior that draws attention away from the speakers, performers, or individual graduates being honored, or detracts from the dignity of the ceremony itself will result in removal from the ceremony.

We ask our proud parents to please respect all the graduates by remaining seated during the ceremony. Walking around on the field, engaging in conversations, or entering the student seating area for photographs is unfairly disruptive. Please do not enter the graduates' seating area.

Blown up beach balls, poppers, silly string, bull horns, etc. are not appropriate. Graduation parties are more appropriate for celebrations of this nature. Please discuss this issue with your graduate. We want to do

everything possible to make this a cherished memory for all our students. A good rule of thumb, if the action takes away from the ceremony and focuses on an individual or group of individuals, then it is inappropriate and unacceptable. Thank you, in advance, for your understanding and cooperation.

Location - Graduation will be held on the Mingus Union High School football field, weather permitting.

Diplomas - Diplomas are legal documents and as such, will be printed in the student's legal name as it appears on their birth certificate. Diplomas will not be inside the red cover at graduation. Graduates will pick up their diplomas on the field following the graduation ceremony.

Mandatory Graduation Practice – Graduation rehearsal is mandatory for all seniors on Friday, May 26th at 7:00am. Students who do not attend graduation rehearsal will not participate in the graduation ceremony. If you have any questions, please contact the front office (Bridget Hillman) at 649-4386.

Graduation Seating - Each graduate will receive four field tickets once all school fees have been paid. **Tickets will be given to the graduates.** The office will not provide tickets to adults. Students need to pick up the tickets at the High School Office **beginning May 1st through May 19th.** Mingus Union High School will not manage ticket issues related to family dynamics. Our hope is that four field tickets will allow for inclusion of all family structures.

The north football gates will open at **5:00 pm, Friday, May 26th,** for admission to the graduation ceremony. Seating in the bleacher area and the reserved on-field area (**with ticket**) is on a first come, first served basis, **with no saving of seats.** Admission to the accommodated seating area will require that the person present their ADA card/identification and they may be accompanied by one guest. Individuals who require special assistance can be dropped off at the gate and a cart will take them to the seating area.

Parking – There is limited parking at the high school– dropping off graduates early and carpooling is encouraged. Accommodated parking is available in the east parking lot by the cafeteria and monitored to assist those who need these spaces. Additional parking is available in the west lot, across Camino Real from the west lot, Fry's parking lot, and in the Faith Lutheran Church parking lot. Transportation (bus shuttles) to the school will be provided from these latter two parking areas both to the ceremony and back to the parking areas at the end of the ceremony.

Live Stream Information – Our graduation ceremony will be live-streamed on Verde Valley TV for family and friends to watch from home. Verde Valley TV is available on Sparklight channel 1056, Suddenlink Channel 2, and VerdeValleyTV.com. We will send out the YouTube event link the week of the graduation.

In Case of Rain - In the event of inclement weather, we may have to move the ceremony inside; we will let you know by 5:00pm the day of graduation. We will contact families via our School Messenger* phone service and have a public service announcement on KYBC AM 1600, KVRD FM 105.7, KKLD FM 95.9, KVNA FM 100.1 and KQST FM 102.9.

Operation Graduation 2023!! – Operation Graduation is a community group sponsored by the Mingus Connection working to provide our Marauders with a safe and exciting graduation party for the Class of 2023! Op Grad will take place at the Cottonwood Rec Center at 9:30pm on graduation night. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Jennifer Reed at jreed@muhs.com.

