## **Eastern Regional High School**

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Steve Lee, Principal

May 2, 2025

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

Shortly, your child will complete 13 years of schooling and reach a significant milestone of achievement—high school graduation. This moment marks both the conclusion of one life chapter and the start of a hopeful future. Commencement is a meaningful tradition that honors hard work, dedication, and growth. It connects our students to the past, recognizes the present, and opens the door to future possibilities.

The Eastern Camden County Regional School District Board of Education and the Administration of Eastern Regional High School are committed to providing a ceremony worthy of our graduates, their families, and the entire school community.

Please read carefully the following information and guidelines relevant to the 2025 Commencement:

<u>Senior Obligations</u>: Seniors with outstanding financial obligations, attendance issues, and unmet academic requirements <u>must reconcile these obligations BEFORE tickets, diplomas and cap and gowns are issued</u>. Communications for all of these have been ongoing, and emailed to students and parents.

- Check financial obligations with the administrative assistants in the Athletics Office located in the 600 Hallway. Payment must be made by cash or money order. Personal checks will not be accepted.
- Address academic concerns with teachers and school counselors.
- For attendance issues, see Dr. Robyn Clarke in the 701 office.

## **Commencement Ceremony**

Date & Time: Tuesday, June 17, 2025, at 3 pm in McAleer Stadium

**Student Arrival:** 2:00 pm **Guest Arrival:** by 2:45 pm

**Admission:** A ticket is required for every guest (whether indoor or outdoor)

Weather Plan: The Performing Arts Center (PAC) will be open for guests sensitive to extreme heat.

\*\*All efforts will be made to have the Commencement ceremony outside, even if we need to delay the start. If inclement weather forces us inside, Gym 4 and the PAC will be utilized.\*\*

<u>Tickets</u>: Each graduate will receive a **total** of 5 tickets, two (2) yellow and three (3) blue. These tickets allow admission to the stadium. *If the ceremony is held indoors*, the two (2) yellow tickets will allow admission into Gymnasium No. 4, and the three (3) blue tickets will allow admission into the Performing Arts Center.

Additional Tickets: All requests for additional stadium tickets must be made by visiting the Eastern Regional High School website. Click on Parents & Students tab, Graduation, Ticket Request Form, complete the form and hit the SUBMIT button. DUE TO OCCUPANCY RESTRICTIONS IN THE GYM AND THE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER, ADDITIONAL TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR STADIUM SEATING ONLY. A request must be sent to my office. All requests must be received by the close of school on Monday, June 2, 2025. All tickets will be distributed immediately following graduation practice on Tuesday, June 17, 2025.

<u>Handicapped Seating</u>: All requests for purple handicapped seating section passes must be made by visiting the Eastern Regional High School website. <u>Click on Parents & Students tab, Graduation, Ticket Request</u>

<u>Form, complete the form and hit the SUBMIT button</u>. All requests must be received by the close of school on

Monday, June 2, 2025. Handicapped passes are extremely limited. We encourage only requesting the number of passes needed for those who are handicapped, with one (1) additional seat for their caregiver/family member. THESE PASSES ARE CONSIDERED PART OF YOUR TOTAL OF 5 ALLOTTED TICKETS AMOUNT. Only those with state-issued handicapped placards will be allowed to park in the rear parking lot, which will open at 1:00 pm for graduation arrivals.

Cap & Gown Distribution: Distribution of caps and gowns will take place on Wednesday, June 11, 2025 in Gym 2, immediately following English 4 final exams (2:00). If your student is exempt from taking the exam, the Cap and Gown may be picked up earlier between 12:10-12:45 pm. Again, students must have fulfilled all academic and attendance requirements, as well as fines, to receive a cap and gown at this time.

<u>Graduation Practices:</u> Monday, June 16th and Tuesday, June 17th starting at 7:30 am in the PAC. Students who do not participate in these practices, will not be permitted to participate in the graduation ceremony. \*\*We will have an **OPTIONAL** opportunity for our graduates to go back to their respective middle schools (Berlin Boro, Gibbsboro, and Voorhees) and do a walk-through one last time after practice on Monday, June 16th.\*\*

Expected Dress: All graduates are to wear business casual attire under their gowns. No shorts, t-shirts, or flip flops. Examples of acceptable attire are dress pants, dress shoes (flat shoes are highly recommended), shirt and tie, and light colored dresses. Jeans, sandals, sneakers, sweat attire, flip flops, corsages, and flowers are not permitted. Stiletto heels are discouraged for walking safety. Only school-issued regalia may be worn on the gowns (i.e. National Honor Society stoles, cords, etc.), but students may decorate their caps

Please Note: Administration has final approval, and may deny participation due to inappropriate attire.

**Behavior Expectations:** Graduation is a proud occasion worthy of respect. Please do not permit your son/daughter from bringing horns, bubbles, inflatables (such as beach balls or balloons) or firework type devices (such as firecrackers or poppers) with them to graduation. **These items, when confiscated, will result in the student's removal from the ceremony.** These items make it impossible for other family members to hear their child's name being called, distract the speakers, and are disruptive to the overall ceremony. Please support Eastern in this effort to provide all of our seniors with a graduation ceremony in an atmosphere of common courtesy, school pride and respect for others.

**Non-Participation:** Written notification must be provided to me, should a student choose not to participate in the ceremony.

<u>Project Graduation</u>: We're excited for this year's **Project Graduation**—an all-night, drug and alcohol-free celebration—for the Class of 2025, which will be held at **Dave & Buster's in Blackwood**. This special event offers one final opportunity for our seniors to come together, celebrate their achievements, and make lasting memories in a safe, fun environment. Please encourage your graduate to take part in this unforgettable night! Buy Tickets Here

As I conclude my first year as your principal, I want to express my heartfelt thanks for an incredible year. I am filled with gratitude and humility for the opportunity to lead such an outstanding school community. Congratulations to the Class of 2025—your hard work and perseverance have inspired us all.

## GO VIKINGS!

With humility and gratitude,

Steve Lee Principal

Row as One