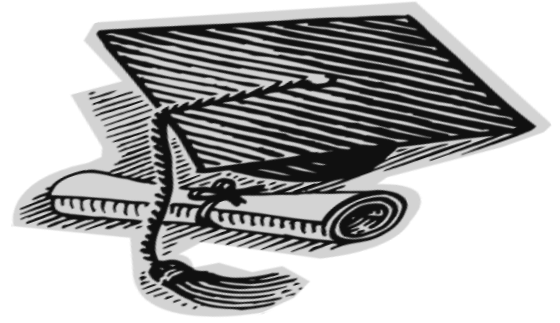


GRADUATION HANDBOOK



Fuquay-Varina High School

Class of 2026

A Letter from the Principal:

Dear Class of 2026:

I am thrilled for you, the Class of 2026, representing “THE” Fuquay-Varina High School! As I said to you in our Bengal Talks assemblies, you are representative of a culmination of work and experiences from dedicated professionals that I hope have shaped your life positively.

No matter where life takes you in the upcoming years, I hope you’ll remember our school as the place that sparked your imagination, brought discoveries for who you are and what you wish to be, and the place you’ll always call “home.”

As you complete the final weeks of your senior year I need you to remember the following:

- **Take care of yourself** - make sure you stay committed to finishing your year strong and take every day seriously.

- **Take care of each other** - when you see a friend in distress, help them. Make sure they graduate with you - leave no one behind.

- **Take care of your school** - we are fortunate to have an amazing school campus that was entrusted to us. Let’s make sure we leave it better than we arrived. You are part of a long legacy of FVHS Bengals - remember the name of THE Fuquay-Varina High School means more than any individual name. We are Fuquay!

- **Take care of your community** - how you finish this year will not only define you, but also add to the pride of our hometown. Make good choices and don’t do anything that reflects negatively on our community in these final weeks leading up to your graduation.

Finally, enjoy these remaining weeks of your senior year wisely. They may very well be the last time you see many friends, classmates, and FVHS staff that worked to provide you with the best high school experience we knew to give. You are forever part of the Bengal Nation - and that just means more.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert M. James".

Robert M.
“Mike” James

Principal



Contents:

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Revised April 28, 2025

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Senior Recognition Night

Who: All Seniors are invited
Date: Wednesday, June 3, 2026
Place: FVHS Gymnasium
Attire: Gown (no cap)
Graduate Arrival: 5:45 PM
Start Time: 6:30 - 8:00 PM

Senior Day

Date: Thursday, June 4, 2026
Place: FVHS campus
Attire: Cap and Gown Required for Senior Picture
Time:
7:35 AM- Arrive to Campus/Bengal Stadium
7:45 AM- Group Picture w/Cap and Gown (Stadium)
8:00 AM- Breakfast (Cafeteria)
8:40 AM- Dismiss to Auditorium for Senior Slideshow
9:15 AM- Review Graduation Ceremony procedures
9:20 AM- Release to Gym (by alpha) to find section/row/seat
9:45 AM- Begin practicing names, walking to stage
11:15 AM- Release to Picnic

Graduation Rehearsal (Mandatory)

Graduation Rehearsal will take place on our Senior Day in the FVHS Gym.

Graduation Ceremony

Date: Tuesday, June 16, 2026
Place: Raleigh Convention Center
Attire: See Graduation Attire, Cap and Gown
Arrival Time: 11:00 AM
Ceremony Start Time: 12:00 PM
Ticket allotment: 8 tickets per graduate

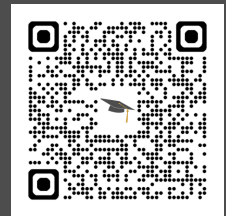
THE PROCESSIONAL WILL BEGIN AT 12:00PM. IF YOU ARE LATE, YOU MAY NOT BE ALLOWED TO JOIN THE PROCESSIONAL.



Lifetouch (Prestige) will be at graduation taking official photos of each senior as they receive their diploma from the principal on stage. Flyers will be posted and shared on how to order your graduation photo directly through Lifetouch.

Senior Speaker

Any Senior interested in delivering the address at



graduation can apply.

Follow directions and submit your speech by the stated deadline to be considered.

Email your speech to awulffert@wcpss.net by Tuesday, April 29th at 11:59 pm.

Audition in Room 4208 after school on Thursday, May 1st at 2:30 pm.

Financial Obligations

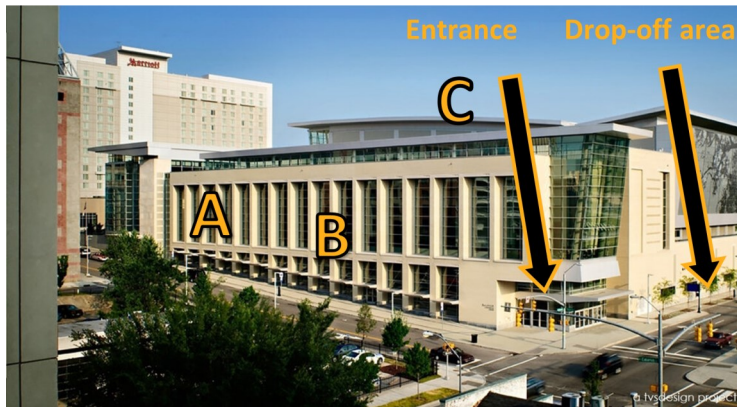
Seniors must pay all FVHS financial obligations in order to receive graduation tickets. This includes any remaining dues, fees, fines, assessments for missing textbooks/uniforms/equipment/etc.

Seniors *will not* receive Graduation tickets and *cannot* participate in the Graduation Ceremony until all financial obligations are met.

ALL FEES, FINES, ETC. MUST BE PAID IN FULL BY:

3 pm Thurs., June 4, 2026

Raleigh Convention Center



COMMENCEMENT DAY

Date: Tuesday, June 16

Time: 12:00 pm

Place: Raleigh Convention Center

Arrival: 11:00 am

- * Be on time. Plan for traffic, parking, and other delays. There are a LOT of graduation ceremonies happening on this day, all day. And there is a lot of construction happening around the RCC.
- * The drop-off area is on the corner of McDowell Street and Cabarras St.
- * Enter the RCC through the entrance on the corner of McDowell and Cabarras. All individuals entering will be required to go through RCC security checkpoint.
- * An FVHS Staff member will greet you at the entrance to RCC, then follow the direction of Junior Marshals to the staging area for your line and report to your assigned row.
- * Parents and guests will be admitted at **11:15 am** through all entrances. Seating is first come, first served. RCC staff will be available to help with wheelchair accessible seating.
- * Wear your graduation cap and gown to graduation.
- * Be careful NOT to lose your tassel; it falls off easily and cannot be replaced.
- * Write your full name inside your cap. You will need to show your cap to receive your diploma.
- * **THE PROCESSIONAL LINE UP WILL BEGIN AT APPROXIMATELY 11:50 AM; LATE STUDENTS MAY NOT BE ALLOWED TO JOIN THE PROCESSIONAL.**

Seniors graduate in alphabetical order. Upon hearing their name called, each senior will walk across the stage and receive his/her diploma cover from the principal. A name is called approximately every 3-4 seconds and the audience will be asked to refrain from applause or noise for the next senior's name to be heard.

RCC EVENT INFO

The parking garage fee is \$10 per car for graduation.

The following items are prohibited inside the facility: balloons, camera bags, book bags/backpacks larger than 12"x12"x10", glass vases/containers of flowers, food or drinks, noise makers, wrapped packages of any kind, or any items similar to those listed above. Flowers wrapped in tissue paper are allowed inside the building. *All items entering the building are subject to search.*

Unruly or intoxicated guests will be prevented from entering.

Handicap guests are encouraged to be dropped off in front of the convention center. Only 1 person will be allowed to accompany wheelchair guests in the reserved wheelchair section of the ceremony.

Due to fire code, strollers cannot block aisles and will be stored at the entrance.

During the ceremony, individuals should remain seated and should not be out of seats to take pictures or move closer to the stage. Guests may videotape from their seat, but tripods may not be set higher than eye level or block the view of other guests.

Everyone will need to exit to outside of RCC to meet their graduates after the ceremony.



DIRECTIONS TO THE RALEIGH CONVENTION CENTER

Raleigh Convention Center, 500 South Salisbury Street, Raleigh, NC 27601

From Points West: I-40 east to exit 298B South Saunders Street.

From Points East: 64/264 to I-440 east; merge onto I-40 west and exit at 298B South Saunders Street.

From Points South: US-1 north to I-40 east; exit at 298B South Saunders Street.

From Points North: US-1 South into the city - left on Lenoir Street.

The convention center website is: <http://www.raleighconvention.com>. The site contains additional information about parking, directions, and a detailed downtown city map.

Graduation Etiquette

Caps and Gowns

- Graduation is a dignified event and both caps and gowns should always be worn in a dignified manner.
- Gowns should not be wrinkled. Let the gown hang for several weeks. May use a COOL iron or garment steamer if needed. DO NOT HOT IRON, WASH OR DRY CLEAN THE GOWNS.
- All students always wear caps STRAIGHT on the head, parallel to the floor. Teacher line supervisors will help adjust the cap for you if you are not wearing the cap correctly.
- Tassels are worn on the right side of the cap until the changing of the tassel near the conclusion of the ceremony. As a group, you will be instructed to move the tassels to the left side to signify your graduation.
- Graduates are expected to hold their caps at the end of the ceremony.
- Graduates will show his/her name written inside of his/her cap to the staff member distributing diplomas after the end of the ceremony.

No one is allowed to alter attire or add decorations to their cap or gown.

***Honor cords are only to be worn by members in good standing of approved organizations with National Char-
ters at FVHS.***

Ceremony Conduct

- Students are expected to walk in the procession and across the stage to receive their diploma without gestures or vulgarity and any other displays that distract from the dignity of the ceremony
- Cat-calling, yelling, and pranks during graduation by seniors and guests will distract from the ceremony. If necessary, the diploma will be withheld from any student if he/she or his/her guests disrupt the ceremony.
- No gum and no smoking once you enter the grounds of the Raleigh Memorial Auditorium.



Appropriate Dress

- Collared dress shirt and necktie or bowtie
- Dress pants/khakis and dark socks (no jeans)
- Light weight dress under the graduation robe (not longer than the gown) or dress pants with collared dress shirt
- Minimal jewelry
- Shoes- Dress shoes, flats or pumps with heel strap (no boat shoes, athletic shoes, boots, sandals, flip flops)
- NO cell phones, purses, handbags, cameras, or other electronic devices. Nothing is to be carried into the ceremony

PARTICIPATION IN THE GRADUATION CEREMONY IS NOT A GUARANTEED RIGHT, IT IS A PRIVILEGE. THE PRINCIPAL RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REFUSE STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN ANY GRADUATION EVENT IF CONDUCT AT SCHOOL IS NOT MAINTAINED AT A HIGH LEVEL OF EXCELLENCE.

Graduates who do not wear appropriate attire or violate any WCPSS or FVHS standards of conduct, including guidelines in this handbook, may be removed from the line and may not be allowed to participate in commencement activities.

Final Transcripts

Students are responsible to request their final transcripts be sent to colleges/schools.

Instruction can be found on the Student Services website under "[Transcripts](#)"

Senior Survey

All Seniors are required to complete the Senior Survey in order for us to process your graduation status in PowerSchool. This information will also be used to generate Future Plans for Senior Recognition Night.

Complete the survey by **May 5th** using this link: [Senior Survey](#) or QR code



A Message from the Dean of Students:

Dear Graduating Seniors,

"It is good to have an end to journey toward, but it is the journey that matters, in the end" ~ Ernest Hemingway

Congratulations to each and every one of you! I hope you all have had an amazing journey through high school. Take away all the valuable lessons learned, the trusted relationships made, and the confidence in knowing you can achieve whatever goals you may set for yourself. As you leave Fuquay-varina High School to pursue new challenges and opportunities, I know you will find that the education you received at our school has prepared you for the future. It is now up to you what you do with it. Go forth and do good things!

This is an exciting time for you and your family as you prepare for graduation! Treasure the moments and enjoy the many special activities in your honor! We want to make your graduation one of the happiest memories in your life. Family members, friends, teachers, counselors, and administrators have helped you reach this momentous occasion. Let us all work together to ensure your graduation is a dignified occasion where your achievements are recognized and acknowledged.

Best wishes for much continued success in all your future endeavors. Most of all ... enjoy your journey!

Kindest regards,

Mrs. Patricia Moore
Dean of Students



Senior Scholarships/Awards for Senior Recognition Night

Seniors must complete the [2026 Senior Scholarship Award Form](#) if you have received a Scholarship or an Award from a college/university or a private organization, even if you are not planning to attend that specific college/university. If you have received multiple Scholarships/Awards, please submit a "new response" for each award you have received. This form must be completed by **MAY 15th, 2026**. If you are notified of a Scholarship/Award after May 16th, please email Mrs. Wood (cwood6@wcpss.net).

The following designations will be used in determining Senior Honors recognition:

- Students with a **3.75 - 3.99** weighted GPA receive the distinction of cum laude
- Students with a **4.0 - 4.249** weighted GPA receive the distinction of magna cum laude
- Students with a **4.25** or higher weighted GPA receive the distinction of summa cum laude

Senior Honors is based on the cumulative GPA at the end of the 1st semester of the graduating year. If any student believes that their spring semester courses will change their honor status, they can request a review **once final grades are posted in June** by completing this [Senior Honors Review](#) form by **June 12th**. What is printed in the graduation program cannot be changed at that time, but an updated honors stole can be provided.