



To the Parent(s)/Legal Guardian(s) of a Graduating Senior of Akins Early College High School **CLASS OF 2023 GRADUATION NEWSLETTER**

April 26, 2023

Principal, Mike Herbin, 841-9900
Associate Principal, Manuel Garcia, 841-9815
College Advisor, Claudia Arrellano-Ferretiz, 841-9926
Registrar, Tesi Treviño, 841-9914
Registrar, Raquel Martinez, 841-9918
Parent Support Specialist, Connie Miralrio, 841-9710

ACADEMY

ABL2E Academy-
Green Tech Academy-
AHA Academy-
New Tech Academy-
Social Services Academy-
STEM Academy-
Early College High School Academy-

COUNSELOR

Ms. Katherine De Leon, 841-9922
Ms. Margarita Moreno, 841-9919
Ms. Jaime Garcia, 841-9827
Ms. Belinda Garces, 841-9947
Ms. Jacey Saylor-Carroll, 841-9923
Ms. Elsa Ringgenberg, 841-9921
Ms. Christine Hankins, 841-9912

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Mr. Brad Lancaster, 841-9814
Mr. Ruben Sarinana, 841-9941
Ms. Jennifer Dawson, 841-9938
Dr. Susan Thames, 841-9870
Ms. Lori Mayfield, 841-9916
Ms. Carman Wissel, 841-9916
Mr. Manuel Garcia, 841-9815

*All the parents of senior students are receiving this newsletter. If your daughter or son is a **candidate** for graduation on **Wednesday, May 31st, 7:00pm**, please read this newsletter. If not, please disregard this newsletter. All the information contained in this newsletter will be distributed to seniors' English classes in May. We want to make sure that you are aware of this important information. Please call Mr. Garcia, Associate Principal, the appropriate assistant principal and/or counselor if after reading this, you still have questions regarding your child's graduation ceremony. If your son or daughter is not planning on attending the graduation, please contact, our head registrar, Ms. Tesi Treviño at 841-9914.*

IMPORTANT DATES

May 10th- Submit Senior Check-off Form for May events
May 12th- Herff-Jones delivers graduation materials, *theater*
May 12th – Senior Breakfast for college-bound seniors, 9:30am-11am, *theater*
May 12th– ACC Graduation for ECHS Graduates, Cedar Park Events Center (Only for graduates receiving Associates Degrees)
May 13th - Senior Prom at The Longhorn Alumni Center, 7pm-10:30pm
May 17th- Panoramic Picture in the Courtyard, 9:05am & Meeting with seniors in Theater, 10:00am
May 17th –School Parade for graduating seniors, 10:30am
May 19th- Return Chromebooks & Pick up Cords at Gym
May 31st – Akins Graduation, Burger Stadium at 7:00pm
June 6th– Pick up actual diplomas from Akins High School from 9am-12pm & 2pm-4:30pm

GRADES

Your son or daughter needs to touch base with each one of his or her teachers and continue to do so until grades are determined. If there are any questions whether a class is needed for graduation, please call your child's counselor immediately at the numbers above. **Seniors in danger of NOT graduating will receive notice**

and parents will be informed. If you have any concerns about how your son or daughter is doing in a class, please call your child's counselor and assistant principal. It is highly recommended you contact the teachers directly, too. You may also visit our website at <https://akinsechs.austinschools.org> and click on "Staff Directory" to find a teacher's email address and/or classroom phone numbers.

ACC CREDITS

If your son or daughter has been taking one or more classes at ACC that are needed for graduation, he or she must hand deliver the ACC transcript to our registrar, Ms. Tesi Treviño at 841-9914 or Ms. Raquel Martinez at 841-9918. If your child waits for it to be sent to Akins High School, it may be too late for him or her to graduate. Send materials before **Wed., May 24.**

For more information about the Class of 2023, please visit the Akins website:

<https://akinsechs.austinschools.org>.

On the drop-down menu for STUDENTS & scroll down to "GRADUATING SENIORS"

CAPS & GOWNS (HERF JONES)

It is never too late to order caps and gowns. Most students have already ordered their caps and gowns. In the event, that this has not happened, please contact Herff-Jones immediately at (800) 837-4235 or visit their website at www.herffjones.com. They will be at Akins on the day of graduation at the Burger Stadium.

CREDIT BY EXAM/CORRESPONDENCE COURSES

Students taking a credit-by-exam or a correspondence course through UT or Texas Tech, need to know that the final grade from that course must be in the registrar's office by May 12th. Students are responsible for obtaining the grades and hand delivering these to Ms. Treviño or Ms. Raquel Martinez by that date.

EXCESSIVE ABSENCES RESULTING IN NCs

Texas Law prohibits receiving credit for a class in which a student has been absent more than 10% of the time unless the student makes up the absences. If your child has more than 5 unexcused absences in a class for this or any previous semester, he or she will receive "no credit" or an "NC" in that class. If the class is required for graduation, he or she will not officially graduate until the absences have been made up. The student may be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony at the discretion of his or her assistant principal but will not receive a diploma or transcript until the absences are made up. Please have your child check with his or her assistant principal now to be sure. Absence totals have been reported or reflected on each report card.

GRADUATION DETAILS

Graduation is a solemn ceremony to honor the culmination students' academic work with a high school diploma. **Graduation is set for Wednesday, May 31st at 7:00pm at the Toney Burger Stadium.** The Burger Stadium is located at 3200 Jones Rd, Austin, TX 78745. **Graduating seniors will need to enter through the side of the stadium (on the Jones Rd. side) by 5:00pm.** After arriving, they will immediately assemble under the stadium seats.

GRADUATION EVENT SHOWN ON AISD TV & LIVE STREAMING

The graduation ceremony will be on AISD TV and social media live-streamed such as YouTube and Facebook. (Check the AISD website www.austinisd.org for more information)

PARKING

Families & friends can park at Burger Stadium.

It is free and available on a first-come first serve basis. AISD is running shuttle buses from the Akins High School parking from 4:00pm-6:00pm. Please visit <https://www.austinisd.org/graduation/free-shuttle>. This is the recommended way to get to graduation for parents and family. After graduation, parents who rode the shuttle buses may return to Akins High School. Parents may choose to park at the Stadium instead.

THINGS NOT TO BRING

The following items are prohibited as people enter the Toney Burger Stadium: **ONLY CLEAR BAGS and BOTTLED WATER are ALLOWED. Read about the Clear Bag Policy.**

Prohibited Items:

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|---|------------------------|
| -Disorderly conduct | -Smoking/Vaping |
| -Food & Drinks (except water) | -Laser pointers |
| -Alcohol may not be served on AISD | -Littering |
| -Noisemakers on air horns | -Use of drones |
| -Balloons, confetti, silly string | -powder |
| -Beach balls, streamers | -glitter (thrown/worn) |
| -Firearms or explosives, weapons | |
| -Wandering away from the designated or restricted areas | |
| -Backpacks or large bags | |
| -Banners, large signs, or unattended strollers | |

Graduating seniors should **NOT** bring purses, cameras, backpacks, coolers, banners, signs, flags, balloons, beach balls, noisemakers, or any other such items. Cell phones should be left with parents in the audience. Failure to comply with the guidelines may result in ejection from Burger Stadium. We would not want to ask anyone to leave the ceremony because of a disruption or failure to comply. **Please remember that this is the graduation of the entire Class of 2023 not just your child's. Please be respectful of this.**

WHAT GRADUATES SHOULD WEAR

Akins High School caps and gowns are required outerwear. **Students should remember to show up with cap and gown in hand.** They should **NOT** wear them on the way into the stadium. We will ask them to put their caps and gowns on there. **Messages on caps, gowns, and/or shoes are not allowed.** This includes no flowers, leis, money necklaces, mardi gras beads, flags, chains, LED flashing lights, etc.

All graduating seniors must dress appropriately and professionally for this formal event. No flip flop sandals, tennis shoes, and/or jeans are allowed for graduation. Students must follow the AISD Code of Conduct at this event.

The area where Seniors line up is not secure; therefore, no items can be left as the area is not monitored. Please wear shoes that are appropriate for the occasion (no tennis shoes or flip-flops). Remember you will need to walk up a ramp, across the stage, downstairs, and back to your seat so your shoes should be comfortable.



NOTE: The administrator has the final discretion and authority of whether a graduating candidate is in violation of the graduation day's dress code policy.

PARENT DIRECTIONS

Only graduates may enter through the Jones Road side of the stadium. **Please bring bottled water.** Parents will be allowed to start entering the Stadium after 6:00pm. The ceremony starts right at 7:00pm. All graduates are expected to remain seated and in attendance through the end of the ceremony. **After commencement** is over, parents should **meet their graduates in the parking lot.**

Please be advised that noisemakers, horns, etc. are not permitted at graduation.

IN THE EVENT IT RAINS

In the event of inclement weather, the graduation ceremony will be moved into the Burger Arena, which has limited seating. Akins seniors will receive only **9 tickets** each for family members and friends due to the seating capacity of 5,000.

STUDENT DIRECTIONS

Graduating seniors can car pool and park at the stadium's parking lot. Once there, enter by Jones Rd **by 5:00pm. Remember to bring bottles of water.** Assemble under the stadium's seating. Do not bring purses or personal items including cell phones. Leave those items with your parents.

To Graduating Seniors:

As you enter the stadium, you will NOT have your your cap and gown. It will be on your arm. Tassels go on the right side of your right eye until after you have graduated. Because there is no formal rehearsal, we have only a few minutes to assemble almost 600 students and explain procedures. You will line up alphabetically. Look for alphabetical lists on the center aisle posts. A teacher/sponsor will assist you in finding your placement within the row, and he or she will report absent students to the registrar.

PHOTOS

Keep it Digital photographer will capture the student's acceptance of the diploma and copies will be available for purchase. The photographer will send order information and a proof directly to you through the U.S. mail. You will have one card for **Keep It Digital** (512-217-3177) and another card with your name for the reader.

OBLIGATION LIST

If students are on the campus obligation list, they must clear these before receiving the actual diploma. This includes clearance from owed library books, activity accounts from a campus organization, chromebooks and chargers.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS FOR PHYSICALLY-IMPAIRED GUESTS

Mobility-impaired guests who need a shuttle bus from Akins Early College High School will need to call Senaida at (512) 841-9905 to ensure a wheel-chair accessible bus. The **Burger Stadium** meets ADA requirements. There will be designated areas for wheel chair accessibility. Call the **Burger Center** at (512) 414-0469 if you have any questions about special accommodations.

ASL INTERPRETATION

Families needing ASL will be seated in a designated area for enhanced viewing. Please notify AISD staff at the entrance of the facility that you need ASL seating.

ACTUAL DIPLOMAS

Actual high school diplomas will not be given when students go up on the stage. The diplomas will need to be picked up at Akins High School on **Tuesday, June 6th** from 9am-12pm & **Thursday, June 8th** from 9am-12pm & 2pm-4:30pm. Ms. Treviño and/or Ms. R. Martinez, our registrars.

FINAL TRANSCRIPTS

Final transcripts will be processed over the summer. Remember once you graduate you will not have access to Naviance after graduation so ordering transcripts must be done through the Registrar's office. Seniors should make sure they provide a personal email address to the Registrar's office as AISD student emails through Naviance will be inaccessible after graduation.



Graduation Dates for Austin ISD High Schools

Fri., May 26 At AISD Performing Arts	Garza Independence Ann Richards HS LBJ Early College HS	10am 2pm 5:30pm
Tues., May 30 At Burger Stadium	Crockett Early College HS Eastside HS Austin HS	10am 2pm 7pm
Wed., May 31 At Burger Stadium	Navarro Early College HS McCallum HS Akins Early College HS	10am 2pm 7pm
Thurs., Jun. 1 At Burger Stadium	Travis Early College HS LASA HS Anderson HS	10am 2pm 7pm
Fri., Jun. 2 At Burger Stadium	Northeast Early College HS Bowie HS	2pm 7pm

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Special Thanks to the Akins Graduation Committee:

Ms. Van Horn, *School Improvement Facilitator*
 Ms. Arellano-Ferretiz, *College Adviser*
 Mr. Garcia, *Administrator*
 Ms. Treviño, *Registrar*
 Ms. R. Martinez, *Registrar*