Guidelines for Baccalaureate and Commencement Exercises

The Baccalaureate Service will be held in the Vivian Wilson Henderson Heath and Physical Education Center in the Epps Gymnasium at 10:00 a.m., Sunday, May 17, 2009. The processional will begin promptly at 9:30 a.m. Students will meet on Larkin Street in front of the Gymnasium at 9:00 a.m. to prepare for the line-of-march.

Commencement Exercises will be held Monday, May 18, 2009, 8:00 a.m. in the Panther Stadium. The processional will begin promptly at 7:30 a.m. Students will meet in the Multipurpose Room of the Bishop Cornelius Henderson Student Center at 6:00 a.m. to prepare for the line-of-march.

To make this a memorable occasion for each of our graduates, we request your cooperation by adhering to the following guidelines:

- Graduates must adhere to the dress code. **Students who are in violation of the dress code will be removed from the line-of-march and will not be allowed to participate in the ceremony.**

**GRADUATES DRESS CODE REMINDER**

**Males:**
- Black or Navy Blue Suit, white dress shirt, dark tie (black or blue)
- No earrings

**Females:**
- All Black or All White knee-length dress or suit, closed-toe shoes (preferably black), flesh colored (skin-tone) hose, small earrings.

- We request that you arrive at least 30 minutes early to make certain that you and your guests are seated comfortably. This is imperative as it relates to the seating of elderly relatives or those requiring special assistance.

- Special areas will be reserved for the graduates, special guests, faculty, and special-needs guests. Please proceed to designated areas not reserved for special guests. Only **one** family member will be allowed to accompany a **special-needs** guest.

- Transportation will be provided for elderly and **special-needs** guests from the entrance gate to the area designated for **special-needs** guests.

- **You will not be able to HOLD SEATS!** We strongly encourage family and friends to arrive early in order to sit together. If possible, designate an area to meet before and after the ceremony.

- Please cooperate with the ushers! They are volunteers who are there to assist you. Be courteous. To avoid conflicts, please follow their instructions.

- There will be no admittance once the procession has begun. Late arrivals will be seated in the upper stands of the stadium.

- A professional videographer has been hired to videotape the exercises. A professional photographer has also been hired to take individual pictures of each student accepting the diploma cover from the President. You may order graduation pictures online at [www.curtismcdowell.com](http://www.curtismcdowell.com).

- If you plan to take pictures or videotape, we encourage seating in the stadium stands to avoid interrupting the ceremony and other guests.

- **Turn off cellular phones and pagers.** Realizing that some parents and/or guests must be on call, we request that you put your cell phone on vibrate and take all calls outside of the event area. The use of cellular phones during the ceremony is prohibited. Graduates will be escorted from the ceremony for not adhering.

- Because of **safety concerns** with electrical wires, **balloons will not be allowed in the stadium.**
Savor the moment as this is your day to be proud of your accomplishments. *Best wishes for a wonderful commencement experience!*