



2022-2023 GRADUATION INFORMATION

FAQ-Family

Frequently Asked Questions



Where can I find the District's graduation schedule? DeKalb County School District will hold 23 of 24 graduation ceremonies May 22-27, 2023 at James R. Hallford Stadium located at 3789 Memorial College Avenue, Decatur, GA 30021. Margaret Harris Comprehensive School will hold their graduation ceremony at the school. The graduation schedule is posted on the DeKalb County School District's website. You may visit the site by clicking the following link: <https://www.dekalbschools.ga.org/graduation/schedule/>

Are masks required to attend the graduation ceremonies? The DeKalb County School District strongly adheres to protocols as published by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). *This information is subject to change based on weather and health conditions.*

What time are graduates expected to arrive at Hallford Stadium? Graduates should arrive one hour prior to the scheduled start time of their ceremony for graduation preparations.

Will transportation be provided for students? Yes. Air-conditioned charter buses are offered to all schools for round-trip service to/from the stadium. **There is no fee for students to ride the charter buses.** Principals will provide each graduate with a permission slip for parents to complete and return indicating whether or not their student will ride the charter bus to/from the stadium. Principals will share transportation pick-up and drop-off times with parents/graduates. School chaperones will ride the buses with the graduates.

When should parents/family members arrive for their student's graduation ceremony? Parking lots at Hallford Stadium will open 45 minutes prior to the scheduled start time of each graduation ceremony. Guests attending the ceremony will enter and exit through ticket booths located on both sides (lower and upper parking lot – *SEE ATTACHED MAP*) of the stadium **45 minutes before** the start of each ceremony. Guests in wheelchairs/Limited mobility may enter up to **30 minutes early**. *Handicap Accessible* parking is available in the upper and lower lots. *Please utilize the attached map of the stadium to plan your visit.*

Where should I park? Guests will utilize two parking lots at Hallford Stadium. The lower lot is much smaller and fills up quickly. *Please utilize the attached map of the stadium to plan your visit.*

Are tickets required to enter the graduation ceremony? Is reserved seating available at the graduation ceremony? Yes, tickets are required to enter graduation ceremonies. Seating is reserved for guests of the valedictorian and salutatorian. Guests who require special accommodations such as wheelchairs/limited mobility concerns will have reserved seating. Late arrival will impact entry to the stadium.

Where do I meet up with my student after the graduation ceremony is over? The graduates will recess out of the stadium to exit the facility. Guests upon cue will exit through the ticket booths. Guests in wheelchairs/limited mobility guests will exit through the stadium gate. If your student plans to board the charter bus to return to their high school, they will go directly to the bus to immediately leave the site following the ceremony. If your student plans to ride home with you, please plan accordingly in advance.




Congratulations Seniors!

2022-2023 GRADUATION INFORMATION

FAQ – Family continued

Frequently Asked Questions

When will graduates receive their diplomas?

Graduates will receive diploma covers at the ceremony. Each high school has designated a date and time for graduates to retrieve their diplomas at their school. Schools will provide additional information prior to the ceremony. 

Will I have an opportunity to take photos of my graduate on the stage?

No. A contracted photography vendor will take a series of photos of each graduate to commemorate this special occasion. Graduates will receive a photo of themselves receiving their diploma cover on stage as part of their graduation package. The photography vendor will share additional photos of graduates with schools/graduates that will be available for purchase.

What does my graduate need to bring to the venue?

Graduates and guests should wear comfortable shoes and travel light. The District will conduct three to four graduation ceremonies daily. The practice room for graduates and the stadium must be emptied and cleaned immediately after attendees exit the area in order to prepare for the next ceremony. Graduates should enter the ceremony hall free of gear and non-district approved paraphernalia such as medallions, honor cords, ribbons etc. Graduates should not wear high-heeled shoes onto the field for safety reasons (i.e., heel becoming stuck in the field or losing a shoe) .

Is food permitted in the venue?

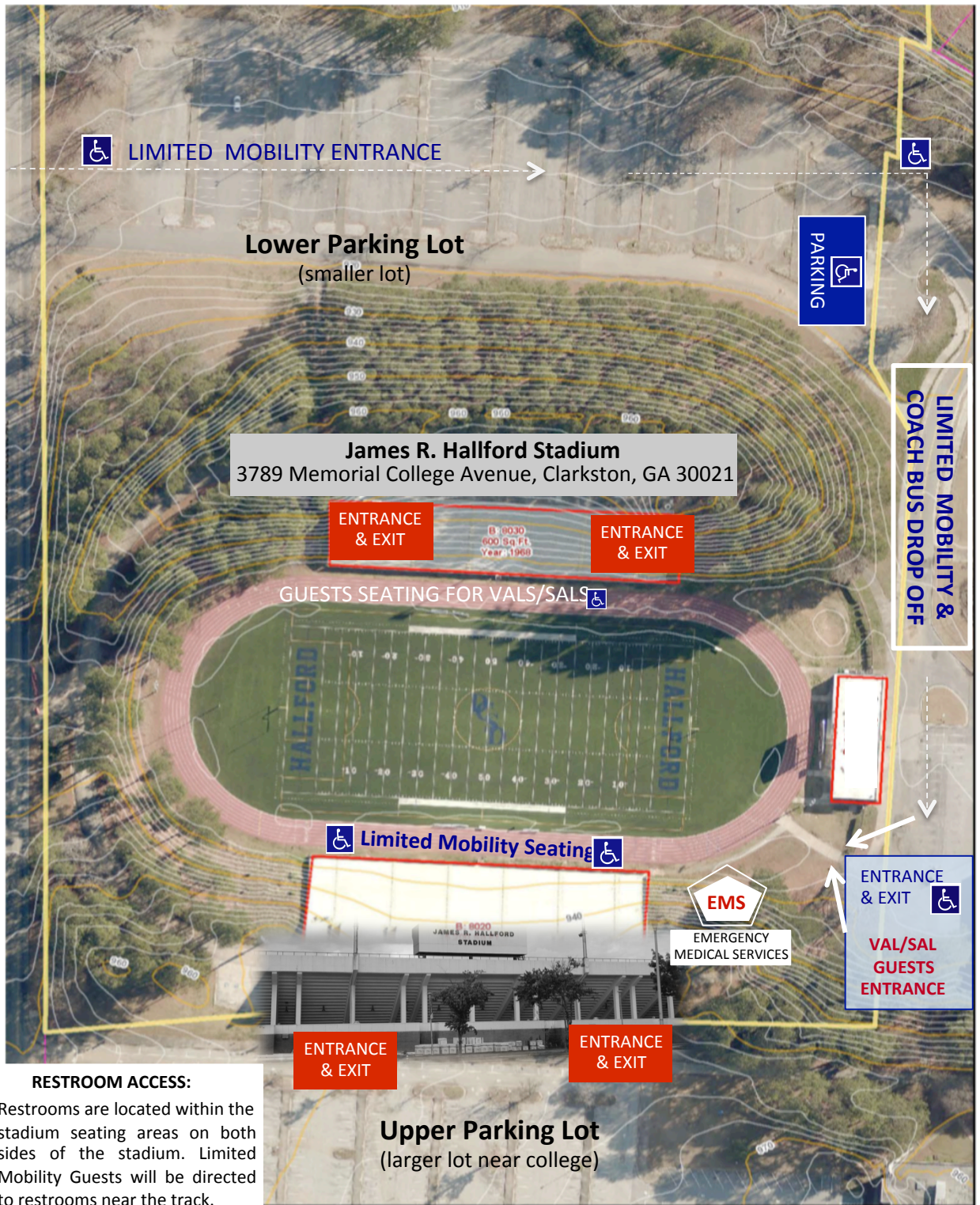
No. Food is not allowed in the stadium. Graduates and guests are asked to eat a meal prior to their graduation ceremony. Graduates and guests are also asked to make certain they are hydrated while attending ceremonies.

Are the graduation ceremonies recorded?

Yes. Each graduation ceremony will be recorded and broadcasted via live stream link. Links to view the ceremonies will be provided on the Grad Central Station's website: <https://www.dekalbschoolsga.org/graduation/>. There is a possibility that attendees may be photographed, recorded via video or audio during the taping of the ceremonies. Graduates may download copies of their ceremonies via YouTube.

What additional information can you share as I plan my visit?

- Planning ahead for an early arrival is essential. *Please utilize the attached map to plan your visit.*
- Stadium upgrades – It is recommended that graduates/attendees not wear high-heeled shoes onto the field for safety reasons.
- **Expect a great deal of walking -- wear comfortable shoes.**
- **Seating at the stadium is very steep. Please exercise precaution.**
- All cell phones/electronic devices must be silenced prior to entering the stadium.
- **Balloons, noisemakers, signs, luggage, backpacks, etc. are not permitted in the stadium.**
- Guests attending the ceremony will enter and exit through the ticket booths located near the lower and upper lots.
- Guests who require special accommodations such as wheelchairs/limited mobility concerns will have reserved seating at the stadium. Limited mobility accessible parking will be available in the lower parking lot.
- **Guests of valedictorians and salutatorians should enter at the field level through the limited-mobility entrance.**
- Guests should enter the stadium with clear bags only.
- Plan accordingly for inclement weather.
- **Don't forget your ticket. Tickets are required to enter the stadium.**
- **Inclement weather:** If the ceremony for your child's school is cancelled due to inclement weather, the new date and time for the ceremony will be posted on the school's website immediately following the occurrence.
- **URGENT MESSAGE FOR GRADUATES AND GUESTS: All attendees for the 2023 Graduation Ceremonies will be required to enter through newly installed Weapons Detection Devices.**



- **Entrance and Exit** - Guests will enter/exit the stadium through the ticket booth
- **Entrance and Exit** - Guests w/limited mobility and guests of valedictorians/salutatorians will enter/exit the stadium through this location.