

# KELL HIGH SCHOOL CLASS of 2026



## Commencement Information and Schedule of Activities

Friday, May 22, 7:00 PM

Kennesaw State University Convocation Center

### LOCATION OF VENUE AND DIRECTIONS

- The Convocation Center is located on the Kennesaw campus of Kennesaw State University at the intersection of I-75 and Chastain Road. From I-75, exit at Chastain Road (Exit 271) and turn west. Go to the first traffic light past the I-75 ramps and turn right onto Frey Road for graduate or guest parking. For accessible and special assistance parking, continue to the second traffic light and turn right on Kennesaw State University Road. Additional approach information and alternate routes are available on the district website at [www.cobbk12.org/graduation](http://www.cobbk12.org/graduation).

### COMMENCEMENT TICKETS

- Guest tickets for commencement will be requested online by the graduate via the Student Portal. The graduate will request the number of tickets desired for their guests. However, the graduate is not guaranteed the number requested. Graduates who do not submit a request will receive 2 tickets. Once tickets are allocated, graduates and parents/guardians will be notified that the number of tickets granted may be viewed in the Student Portal.
- All tickets and any remaining GPA honor cords will be distributed at the second mandatory commencement practice on May 21, 2025, from 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM.
- Honor society paraphernalia will be distributed by the teacher advisor at their discretion.
- Lost or damaged tickets cannot be replaced.
- All guests attending commencement, including babies and small children, will need ticket to enter the venue.
- A photograph of a ticket (including but not limited to images on a cell phone) may not be substituted for a legitimate ticket.

### SENIOR CLEARANCE

- All fees for lost or damaged textbooks, media center materials, CCSD laptops and charging cords, school issued uniforms, parking, or any other materials owed to the school must be cleared by Tuesday, May 12, 2026.
- All seniors must be cleared in order to participate in the commencement ceremony and receive their diploma. Senior Clearance will begin May 1, 2026 and conclude after final exams have finished on Tuesday, May 12, 2026.

## FINAL EXAMS

- Senior Final Exams are scheduled as follows:
  - May 11 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Final Exams
  - May 12 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Final Exams
  - *Exams will be given during the regularly scheduled class periods.*

## COMMENCEMENT CONTRACT

- All graduates will be expected to sign a contract that defines expectations and behaviors for the Kell High School ceremony. This is due by May 1, 2026.
- The graduation contract will be distributed at a later date.

## COMMENCEMENT PRACTICE

- Two mandatory commencement practices are scheduled for Wednesday, May 20 from 12:30 PM to 3:30 PM and Thursday, May 21 from 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM. All students planning to participate in the commencement ceremony are required to attend this practice.
- All policies, rules, and regulations of Cobb County School District and Kell High School will be enforced during the rehearsal.

## COMMENCEMENT ATTIRE

- Graduates are expected to wear academic attire available from the school's graduation apparel vendor, ATLGrad.
- Commencement is a formal ceremony of prestige and honor. To ensure the decorum of the ceremony and to provide consistency among schools, alterations to the mortarboard and gown will not be permitted.
- As this is a formal and dignified event, graduate clothing should reflect the same. No one will be permitted to wear shorts, flip-flops, or casual sandals. For women, although not required, flat shoes are recommended due to the distance graduates will walk from graduate parking to the line-up room and to the ceremony venue.
- Dress for graduates will be as follows.
  - Dark dress slacks, dark socks, a collared shirt, and tie
  - Solid colored dark dresses (length no longer than the gown; collars should not show)
  - Dark dress slacks or a skirt with a blouse.
  - Dark or nude color dress shoes
- Graduates may only wear stoles, cords, and other insignia authorized by the school. Students will be required to remove any regalia not listed below:

<i>Honor Graduate (3.5 GPA)</i>	<i>German Honor Society Cord</i>
<i>Latin Honor Society Cord</i>	<i>National Social Studies Honor Society Cord</i>
<i>Kell Community Service Medallion</i>	<i>Military Regalia provided by enlisted branch of service</i>
<i>Spanish Honor Society Cord</i>	<i>Technical Certificate of Credit Cord</i>
<i>Mu Alpha Theta Cord</i>	<i>STEM Academy Cord</i>
<i>National Art Honor Society Cord</i>	<i>Tri-M Music Honor Society</i>
<i>Thespian Honor Society Cord</i>	<i>Governor's Honors Program</i>
<i>National Honor Society Stole</i>	
- Any student not following the dress code for the ceremony will be pulled from the line up at that time.
- The only item that the graduate should bring with them to the ceremony is a set of car keys, if necessary. There will be no secure storage provided for purses or phones, and these items will not be permitted to stay with students during the ceremony.

## COMMENCEMENT DAY

- Graduates must be at the Siegel Recreation Center with their cap, gown, and tassel on May 22, 2026, by 5:30 PM. The ceremony will begin promptly at 7:00 PM.

- Doors will open at 6:15 PM for all guests. A designated door will open at 6:00 PM for guests with disabilities and guests requiring individualized assistance. Early admission will be granted to the person requiring assistance and one (1) ticketed companion only.
- Following the ceremony, graduates will immediately proceed to the Campus Green. Family and friends may meet the graduates at the Campus Green.
- For the safety of all persons in attendance, CAPS (mortarboards) **MAY NOT BE THROWN** at any venue.
- Behavior at the ceremony must be exemplary. Please understand that disruption and misconduct in any form will not be tolerated. Any senior causing a disturbance or in any way conducting themselves inappropriately before or during the ceremony will be removed and will not be allowed to participate in the commencement ceremony.
- Should any damage result to the venue, district property, or vendor property, restitution will be the responsibility of the school whose graduates and/or audience causes the damage.

## **PARKING**

- **KSU charges a \$10.00 parking fee per car.** Be prepared to pay with credit card or debit card only.
- **Graduates** are to park in the Central Parking Deck. Graduates are encouraged to wear comfortable shoes for walking from the Central Parking Deck to the Siegel Recreation Center (SRC) and the Convocation Center (CC).
- **Guests** will park in the East Parking Deck and the East Economy Lot (across Frey Road from the East Parking Deck). Overflow parking will be available in the Central Parking Deck.
- **Guests with disabilities and elderly guests needing individualized assistance** should park in either Lot A or Lot B (as designated on the campus map). Golf carts will run continuously to convey guests to and from the Convocation Center.

## **DIPLOMA DISTRIBUTION**

- Diplomas will be distributed Tuesday, May 26, 2023, between 9:00 AM-11:15 AM in the Kell HS Theater lobby.
- All fines and fees must be cleared, or outstanding materials returned, to receive a diploma and final transcript.
- Diplomas will only be distributed to the student or parent/guardian of the student. Please have identification ready at pick-up.
- Pick-up times are designated below by student last name.
  - A-Ga (9:00 AM – 9:45 AM)
  - Ge-M (9:45 AM – 10:30 AM)
  - N-Z (10:30 AM – 11:15 AM)

## **COMMENCEMENT PHOTOS**

- During the commencement ceremony, all guests must remain in their seats. Guests may not stand in aisles or along railings.
- Guests are welcome to use cameras for still and video photography from their seat.
- The use of tripods, monopods, selfie-sticks, or other camera stabilizing devices is not permitted either inside or outside the venue.
- Kell has arranged for BPI Photography to take an individual photograph of your graduate. Each student will receive an emailed proof following the ceremony. You will place orders directly with the studio. If you have questions, please contact BPI Photography at [www.bpiphotography.net](http://www.bpiphotography.net) or at 1-866-363-6936.

## Videos

- A video of the commencement ceremony will be professionally recorded. Video sales will be made available online on the district graduation page ([www.cobbk12.org/graduation](http://www.cobbk12.org/graduation)).
- CCSD will provide a live webcast of the commencement ceremony which will be publicly available via the school district website ([www.cobbk12.org/graduation](http://www.cobbk12.org/graduation)).

## FLOWER/GIFT SALES

- Flowers and graduation gifts may be purchased from district-approved vendor(s) at district-managed venues. Sales kiosks will be located in the pre-function areas and/or outside the venue.

## KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY SECURITY MEASURES

In accordance with Kennesaw State University requirements, all persons entering the Convocation Center must pass through a metal detection device. Also, guests entering the facility with a bag **MUST** use either a CLEAR TOTE or SMALL CLUTCH to be approved for entry into the venue. Please do not bring any packages that cannot be opened or inspected. KSU requires that all persons entering the facility must submit all bags for inspection by public safety personnel. **Please allow extra time for entry as there may be delays.**

Please see the description provided regarding clear totes and small clutches.

### Clear Totes

- Size may not exceed 12"x 6"x 12"
- Logo may only be on one side of the bag
- Items in the tote must be loose
- All bags are subject to search

### Clutch Bag or Small Purse

- Size may not exceed 6.5"x 4.5"
- May include a handle or strap
- Does NOT need to be clear
- All bags are subject to search



## PROHIBITED ITEMS

- Any object which obscures the view or impacts the safety of others is not allowed in any district-managed venue. A complete list of prohibited items is available on the district graduation web page ([www.cobbk12.org/graduation](http://www.cobbk12.org/graduation)).
- KSU will only allow for clear, empty water bottles inside of the facility. These may be refilled at stations inside the venue.

## COMMENCEMENT TIMELINE

Details for all events will be updated and shared via CTLS, our Class of 2026 Graduation Information page, and Kell Social Media accounts.

Day	Date	Event
All Week	May 4-8, 2026	Senior Week: <i>Stay tuned for senior themed dress-up days!</i>
Friday	May 8, 2026	Senior Sunrise: <i>Donuts on the Football Field at sunrise. Bring blankets and coffee and hang out with your friends one final Friday before final exams.</i>
Monday	May 11, 2026	3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Period Final Exams
Tuesday	May 12, 2026	1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Period Final Exams
Tuesday	May 12, 2026	Senior Clearance & Senior Picnic: <i>Seniors will verify they have no outstanding fees, fines, or materials before having lunch in the back track field area with a picnic, yearbook signing, and good times with their 2026 classmates.</i>
Friday	May 15, 2026	Honor Cord Distribution: <i>Seniors who have a 3.5 GPA or higher can pick up honor cords. Time &amp; Location TBD. Any cords that are not picked up on this date will be handed out at Graduation Practice.</i>
Friday	May 15, 2026	Bright Futures Parade: <i>At sundown, the Class of 2026 will parade around the campus with cars decorated and celebrate the beginning of their next chapter. Spectators are welcome!</i>
Sunday	May 17, 2026	Baccalaureate Ceremony: <i>PTSA will host the event where members of the Class of 2026 will share their memories from their four years at Kell. This event will be held at Piedmont Church at 3:00 PM with a reception to follow. Graduates should plan to wear their Cap and Gown and any regalia they've earned.</i>
Wednesday	May 20, 2026 <i>Kell Theater</i>	Academic Signing Day: <i>Students are invited to "sign" their academic school commitment in a ceremony for students and parents. Time details TBD.</i>
Wednesday	May 20, 2026 12:30PM – 3:30PM <i>Kell Cafeteria/Main Gym</i>	Commencement Ceremony Practice (mandatory) with check-in and lunch starting in the cafeteria at 12:30pm
Thursday	May 21, 2026 9:00AM – 11:00AM <i>Main Gym</i>	Commencement Ceremony Practice (mandatory)
Friday	May 22, 2026 7:00PM <i>KSU Convocation Center</i>	Commencement Ceremony
Tuesday	May 26, 2026 9:00AM - 11:15AM <i>Theater Lobby</i>	Diploma Distribution

Direct any questions to Amy Sanders at [amelia.sanders@cobbk12.org](mailto:amelia.sanders@cobbk12.org)

For additional information and updates, please check the commencement page on the district web site: [www.cobbk12.org/graduation](http://www.cobbk12.org/graduation).



## HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2026 COMMENCEMENT CONTRACT

THIS CONTRACT MUST BE SIGNED AND RETURNED BY FRIDAY, MAY 1ST. STUDENTS WILL NOT BE CLEARED AND MAY NOT PARTICIPATE IN COMMENCEMENT WITHOUT A SIGNED CONTRACT.

We (student & parent) understand that to participate in the commencement ceremony these requirements must be met:

1. The student will attend the mandatory commencement practices and will follow all rules and policies for the school activity. Behaviors that detract from the integrity of the commencement ceremony will not be tolerated.
2. All financial obligations must be cleared by (Date TBD). This includes, but is not limited to, return of textbooks, media center materials, CCSD-issued laptops, and school issued uniforms and fine arts equipment. It also includes but is not limited to payment for lost textbooks, parking fines, athletic and/or fine arts equipment and uniforms, as well as CCSD-issued technology. We ask that you turn in textbooks upon completion of your final exam or earlier. If you fail to resolve lost items and/or fines, you will be unable to participate in the commencement ceremony and could have your diploma withheld.
3. This commencement is a formal ceremony and any disruptive behavior at the ceremony will result in the student being removed from the ceremony and will result in a delay of the receipt of the student's diploma.
4. A student may be denied the opportunity to participate in the ceremony if he/she is involved in any serious discipline event during the remainder of the 2026 school year.
5. Students will be expected to follow the dress guidelines and all Cobb County School District policies. Any student improperly dressed for the ceremony will not be allowed to participate in the ceremony.

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Print student's name and ID#

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Student's signature Date

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Parent's or Guardian's signature Date

Senior Final Exams will be administered on Monday, May 11, and Tuesday, May 12, during your regularly scheduled class periods.