

John McEachern High School
Class of 2026
Commencement Information and Schedule of Activities

Thursday, May 21, 2026, 10:00 A.M.
Convocation Center
Kennesaw State University

LOCATION OF VENUE AND DIRECTIONS

- The Convocation Center is located on 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.

COMMENCEMENT TICKETS

- A photograph of a ticket (including but not limited to images on a cell phone) may not be substituted for a legitimate ticket.
- All tickets will be distributed during the final commencement practice on **Wednesday, May 20**. All guests attending commencement, including babies and small children who will be seated in the laps of adult family members, will require a ticket. NO tickets will be provided in advance and NO extra tickets are available.

HONOR GRADUATES

Students with a minimum of 3.500 cumulative GPA (not rounded) will receive their honor cord at the final commencement practice on **May 20**. The final transcript will be enclosed in the envelope with the diploma.

SENIOR CLEARANCE

- A letter will be distributed to each student indicating their fines during May advisement.
- All students must be cleared of fines and fees prior to rehearsal. All fees (textbook, parking, media, uniforms, extracurricular, district laptop, classroom instructional equipment, etc.) must be cleared by **Thursday, May 14**.
- Fines must be paid in cash only.
- Band, Orchestra, and Chorus fines must be paid in the Band Building. Please see Mr. Wilson.
- Students with outstanding fees will be prohibited from participating in the ceremony.

SENIOR FINAL EXAMS

- Wednesday, May 13 – 1st & 2nd Block Finals
- Thursday, May 14 – 3rd & 4th Block Finals

COMMENCEMENT PRACTICE

- ALL PRACTICES ARE MANDATORY to participate in commencement.
- **Tuesday, May 19 & Wednesday, May 20 (8:20 A.M. to 11:00 A.M.)**
- Practice will be held in the Lovinggood Gym.
- Graduates are NOT PERMITTED to remain on campus following graduation practice.
- Seniors must be present and on time for all practices. Seniors who miss a practice may not be eligible to participate in the commencement ceremony. Commencement practices are school activities; therefore, all school rules and regulations, including dress code policies, will be enforced.

COMMENCEMENT ATTIRE:

- As this is a formal and dignified event, graduate clothing should reflect the same. Men shall not wear shorts, flip-flops, or 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.
- Parents will not be permitted to interrupt the commencement ceremony to replace shoes that are uncomfortable.
- Mortarboards are to be placed on the top of the head so that the mortarboard is flat on the top. Bobby pins are suggested to hold the cap in place. Tassels are to be worn on the right side of the mortarboard during the ceremony.
- To ensure the decorum of the ceremony and to provide consistency among schools, alterations to the mortarboard and gown are **NOT** permitted. Graduates may only wear stoles, cords and other honor insignia authorized by the school. You may not participate in the ceremony if you do not adhere to required dress code.

COMMENCEMENT DAY

- Graduates arrive at the Siegel Recreation Center by 8:30 A.M. with cap and gown for attendance verification and line-up for the processional.
- To participate in commencement ceremony each graduate must purchase the approved cap and gown through ATL Grad.
- If you have questions concerning your order, contact ATL Grad at (770) 727 - 1007, or email at seniors@atlgrad.com. Each student must have current gown, with matching mortarboard, and tassel to participate in the ceremony.
- Throwing caps is inappropriate, dangerous, and will not be permitted. If a student tosses a cap during the ceremony or during the recessional, the student will pay restitution for any damages incurred. Please understand that disruption and misconduct in any form will not be tolerated.
- Any senior who causes a disturbance or in any way conducts himself or herself inappropriately during the ceremony will be removed.
- Graduates should not bring personal items to commencement such as cell phones, keys, purses or selfie-sticks. There is no place to secure these items while you are participating in the commencement ceremony.

PARKING

- KSU charges a parking fee of \$10 to be paid by Credit or Debit Card upon entering the deck or lot. This fee applies to graduates and to guests. Drivers should have cards ready for payment to keep traffic moving.
- Graduates are to park in the Central Parking Deck.
- Guests are to 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 who require assistance should park in either Lot A or Lot B. Golf carts will run continuously to transport guests to and from the Convocation Center.

DIPLOMA DISTRIBUTION

- Diplomas will not be distributed after the commencement ceremony at KSU. Students can pick-up their diplomas on **Friday, May 22**, or **Tuesday, May 26**, from 9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M. in the Russell Hall Museum.

COMMENCEMENT PHOTOS

- Cady Studios will take photos of each graduate prior to ascending to the stage and as they receive their diploma. These photos will be available for purchase. Parents and/or guests may not be in the aisles, along the stadium railings, or at the front of the stage to film or to take photographs.

DVD SALES

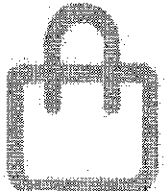


- DVD sales will be made available online on the district graduation page (www.cobbk12.org/graduation). The district will provide a link for the sales of DVDs on the district graduation page. Sales kiosks will be located in the pre-function areas and/or outside the venue for onsite sales.
- CCSD will provide a live webcast of the commencement ceremony which will be publicly available via the school district website(www.cobbk12.org/graduation).

FLOWER/GIFT SALES

- Flowers and graduation gifts may be purchased from district-approved vendor(s) at district managed venues.

BAG CHECK

- All guests entering the venue with a bag **MUST** have either a CLEAR TOTE, PLASTIC ZIP TOP BAG, or SMALL CLUTCH to be approved for entry into the venue.
- In accordance with KSU requirements, all persons entering the Convocation Center **MUST** submit all bags and packages for inspection by public safety personnel. Please do not bring any packages that cannot be opened or inspected. Also, please allow extra time for entry as there may be delays.
- Diaper bags are permissible when accompanied by an infant/toddler and are subject to search. Bags that do not meet these criteria will not be permitted into the venue.

Clear Totes	Plastic Zip Top Bag	Clutch Bag or Small Purse
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Size may not exceed 11" x 11"• Resealable• Clear	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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-manage venue. A complete list of prohibited items is available on the district graduation web page (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.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- All graduates will be expected to sign a contract that defines expectations and behaviors for the McEachern High School ceremony.
- Seniors will need to request a final transcript if they are planning to attend college. Final transcripts are not mailed automatically. The cost is \$2.00 per transcript.

Class of 2026 Important Dates

Tuesday, March 31	Virtual Graduation Parent Meeting at 6:00 P.M.
Friday, April 17	Senior Assembly
Saturday, April 18	PROM- Cobb Energy Center
Friday, May 1	Clearance Letters for Fines & Fees will be distributed during Advisement
Monday, May 4	Senior Honors Night
Wednesday, May 6	Regalia Night (Senior Supper)
Wednesday, May 13	Final Exams - 1 st & 2 nd Block
Thursday, May 14	Final Exams - 3 rd & 4 th Block
Friday, May 15	Final Exam Make-Ups (Senior Final Grades Due)
Sunday, May 17	Baccalaureate at McEachern United Methodist Church at 2:00 PM
Monday, May 18	Seniors DO NOT REPORT to school
Tuesday, May 19	Mandatory Graduation Practice 8:20 A.M. - 11:00 A.M. - Lovingood Gym
Wednesday, May 20	Mandatory Graduation Practice 8:20 A.M. - 11:00 A.M. - Lovingood Gym
Thursday, May 21	Commencement Ceremony at Kennesaw State University Convocation Center <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Graduates must report to the Siegel Recreation Center by 8:30 A.M. to participate in the commencement ceremony (attendance verification)
Friday, May 22 & Tuesday, May 26	Diploma pick-up from 9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M. in the Russell Hall Museum.

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

*Baccalaureate
Class of 2026*

Please honor us with your presence at the farewell ceremony

For all graduating Seniors

On

May 17, 2026

McEachern United Methodist Church

4075 Macland Road

Powder Springs, 30127

2:00 PM.

Tradition has made Baccalaureate an inspiring and memorable occasion. Family and friends gather as graduates in full cap and gown are challenged with a "game plan for impacting their world." Classmates take part in introductions, readings, singing, musical performances and closing remarks.

An intimate reception follows providing opportunity for pictures, fellowship and well wishes.

The Class of 2026 has been called a "GREAT CLASS" and behind every great class is a group of "GREAT PARENTS". Please continue to impact your child's life by volunteering and/or contributing to this event.

Frequently Asked Questions about Bacculaureate

What is it? Bacculaureate is an inspirational service designed to encourage graduates to live their faith beyond high school.

Who may attend? The service is open to all MHS Seniors, their family and friends.

How much does it cost? There is no cost.

Do I need a ticket? No ticket is required. This is an opportunity for family and friends who cannot attend the graduation ceremony due to the limited number of tickets given per student or scheduling problems to say congratulations by their attendance.

How many people may attend? There is no limit.

What do I wear? Seniors are to wear their stole and gown only, no cap. The cap to your gown is not necessary for this event. Wear what you would be wearing to graduation *except for any additional stoles, cords, medals, etc.* as this is a celebration of your spiritual journey and not about the individual accomplishments. Friends and family should dress in clothes appropriate for the occasion.

What time do I arrive? Seniors arrive at **1:30 PM.** to line up for the processional. **Service will start promptly at 2:00 PM.**

STUDENT REMINDERS:

CELL PHONES ON SILENT

Order of students

Any student who will be performing will go in first. Remainder of students – no special order.

REMAIN STANDING UNTIL INSTRUCTED TO BE SEATED.

Enjoy the service.

At the end of the service you will be dismissed to go to the Conference Center for the reception.

God bless you as you enter into the next step of your educational journey.

Class of 2026 Final Transcript Process

If you're planning to attend a 2-year or 4-year college/university, technical or trade school, you must request your Official Final Transcript to be sent to the school. Here's everything you need to know:

1. ONE Free Final Transcript:

- Every senior at McEachern High School will receive **one free official final transcript**.
- Make sure to request it by **July 10, 2026**. After that, you must request your final official transcript in person, and you will be charged \$2 for each official final transcript.



2. Request Your Final Transcript:

- **Fill out the Free Final Transcript form here:**
- After completing the final transcript form, **log into NAVIANCE** and add the name of the college under the "Colleges I am applying to" tab. This is crucial for your transcript to be sent to the correct place.
- ALL final transcripts will be delivered electronically via NAVIANCE.
- If you need help, visit the School Counseling Office in the Business Technology (BT) Building.

3. Important Dates:

- **Final Transcript Processing Starts: May 26, 2026** (with final grades and graduation date).
- **Deadline to request 1 FREE Final Transcript: July 10, 2026.** After this date, students will need to each transcript will cost \$2.
- **Requests by May 29, 2026:** Will be sent by **June 5, 2026**.
- **Requests after May 29, 2026:** Will be processed once a week (Thursdays). Please note, during the summer, the counseling office will be closed from 12pm to 1pm for lunch and also closed the week of 6/29/26 – 7/3/26.

4. Payment for Extra Transcripts for NCAA, NAIA, or other organizations:

- **Additional Copies:** If you need more than one official final transcript, each additional transcript costs **\$2.00**.
- Payments must be made **in person** at the BT Counseling Office. The office accepts **cash only**—please bring **exact change**.
- Office hours until May 22, 2026: **Monday-Friday, 8am-3:30pm**
- After May 30, the office is open **Thursdays, 9am-4pm** (closed for lunch from 12-1pm).
- The counseling office will be closed the week of June 29, 2026, to July 3, 2026.

5. Important Reminders:

- Please do **NOT** submit multiple requests for the same school —this WILL delay the process.
- The Counseling Office **cannot** send transcripts via email.
- The office will reopen for the 2026-2027 school year on **July 27, 2026**, and payment for ALL official transcripts will be required after July 10, 2026.
- **Naviance** will be offline starting mid-July until the start of the new school year. Transcript requests made after July 10th may be delayed.

****Be to follow these instructions carefully to avoid delays in sending your final transcript!***

Dear Senior and Parents of Seniors:

As is the tradition at McEachern High School, we will hold a senior assembly on Friday morning, April 17, 2026, at 10:00 AM in the Lovinggood Gymnasium. The assembly will last approximately one and a half hours. The highlights of the assembly are the senior memories video, senior speeches, and the symbolic transition of juniors to the senior class. **As with all senior assemblies, students must not only dress appropriately according to the dress code in the Student Handbook, but they should also adhere to a heightened standard of appearance and dress appropriate to the occasion. Students may not wear shorts, pants or jeans with holes or rips, slippers, or house shoes. No headgear such as caps, hats, bandanas, hoodies, or dew rags. Electronic devices should be placed on "silent" and not be visible. This also includes air pods or headphones. Any student out of dress code will not be allowed to attend this assembly and will be sent back to their class. Remember that the purpose of this day is to honor our students.**

Parents are invited to attend this assembly and should plan to arrive between **9:45 AM and 10:00 AM**. Following the assembly, students will return to their regularly scheduled classes. If your student plans to leave school after the assembly, please complete the attached Early Dismissal Form to provide permission. The form must be **signed, dated, and returned to the CT Office by April 14, 2026, at 4:00 PM**. **No exceptions** will be made to this deadline.

We hope you will be able to join us for this special event on Friday, April 17, 2026. If you have any questions, please contact me.

James Lockhart
770) 222 – 3710 ext. 017
James.lockhart@cobbk12.org

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Print student's name and ID# _____ ID# _____

Student's signature and Date _____ Date _____

Parent's or Guardian's signature and Date _____ Date _____



**HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2026
COMMENCEMENT CONTRACT**

THIS CONTRACT MUST BE SIGNED AND RETURNED BY **May 1 , 2026 at 4:00 PM**. 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 **May 14, 2026**. 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.

Print student's name and ID#

Student's signature Date

Parent's or Guardian's signature Date

Senior Final Exams will be administered on (Date TBD), during your regularly scheduled class periods.