

Walton High School

Class of 2025

Commencement Information and Schedule of Activities

Thursday, May 22, 2025, 2:30 PM
Kennesaw State University
Convocation Center

This packet contains information about Walton High School's commencement. It is important that you and your family review the following information carefully. In addition, information regarding commencement is available at www.cobbk12.org/graduation.

VENUE LOCATION 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.

COMMENCEMENT TICKETS

- Tickets are required for all guests, including babies and children.
- Guest tickets must be requested online by the graduate via the Student Portal (<https://studentportal.cobbk12.org>) by Friday, February 28. The graduate will request the number of tickets desired but is not guaranteed the number requested. Graduates should discuss with a parent/guardian prior to submitting the request for the number of tickets needed by the family. No ticket requests can be made or modified once the deadline has passed.
- Once tickets have been allocated, students and parents/guardians will be able to view the number of tickets received in the Student Portal.
- Physical commencement tickets will be distributed to students during the second day of commencement practice.
- Each ticket will have a unique barcode and will be valid only for the ceremony, date, and time shown on the ticket. Lost or damaged tickets cannot be replaced. Once a ticket is scanned for entry into the venue, it is no longer valid. A guest cannot re-use a ticket for further entry.
- A photograph of a ticket (including but not limited to images on a cell phone) may not be substituted for a legitimate ticket.
- Additionally, the Cobb County School District will provide a live webcast of the commencement ceremony that will be available via the district website at www.cobbk12.org/graduation.

SENIOR CLEARANCE

Participation in the commencement ceremony is not mandatory. Students must meet all expectations and requirements in order to participate.

- The student must meet all requirements for graduation before the diploma will be granted.
- All required courses must be successfully completed by Friday, May 16, 2025, or the student will not be allowed to participate in the commencement ceremony with this class.

- All financial obligations, including payment for lost textbooks, parking fines, etc., must be cleared before final grades can be given and before the senior will be allowed to participate in commencement.
- A Graduation Contract, summarizing behavior/dress expectations and whether the senior wishes to walk in the commencement ceremony, will be emailed to each senior the week of March 17. This contract must be on file with the school before the student is allowed to participate. If a student does not wish to participate in the commencement ceremony, there is an option on the Graduation Contract that should be marked.

FINAL EXAMS

- Monday, May 12 Periods 5, 6, & 7
- Tuesday, May 13 Periods 3 & 4
- Wednesday, May 14 Periods 1 & 2
- These are regular school days and exams will be given in the regularly scheduled class period.

COMMENCEMENT PRACTICE

- Tuesday, May 20 and Wednesday, May 21 at 12:45 PM in the Walton Gymnasium
- Attendance at both commencement practices is mandatory for participation in the commencement ceremony. Seniors must stay for the entire practice. Students who are employed or have other obligations are expected to make arrangements in advance in order to attend commencement practice.
- No food or drink will be allowed at practice.
- Cobb County School District and Walton High School policies and regulations that govern all school activities will be followed. The dress code will be in effect.
- Seniors should park in their assigned spaces and plan to arrive inside the gym by 12:30 PM.
- Seniors will report directly to their homeroom teacher or assigned staff member.
- Practices will last approximately 2 hours, but the length of each practice may vary based on student cooperation.
- Students with outstanding financial obligations will not be allowed to participate.

COMMENCEMENT ATTIRE

- Wear a white collared shirt with dark solid slacks, or a dress, or a skirt and blouse. The dress may not hang below the gown. Ties are required (no bow ties).
- Wear comfortable dress shoes that are appropriate for the long walk from the line-up room to the ceremony venue. No flip flops are allowed.
- Caps and gowns must be worn by graduating seniors. Commencement announcements, caps, and gowns will be distributed on April 16. If you have questions concerning the items you have ordered, call Herff Jones directly at (770) 727-1007.
- Remove your gown from the packaging prior to commencement and hang it up so the wrinkles will fall out. Use a cool iron to press, if necessary. Do not hem your gown.
- Only those in proper attire will be allowed in the processional.
- Flowers and large pieces of jewelry are not appropriate with commencement gowns. To ensure the decorum of the ceremony, alterations to the mortarboard and gown will not be permitted. Graduates may only wear stoles, cords, and other insignia authorized by the school.
- Mortarboards are to be placed on the top of the head so that the mortarboard is flat on 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.

COMMENCEMENT DAY

- Thursday, May 22, 2025, 2:30 PM – Kennesaw State University Convocation Center
- Students will report to the Siegel Recreation Center by 1:00 PM dressed and ready to be lined up. Students will not have access to storage for personal items.
- Doors will open at 1:45 PM for guests.
- A designated door will open at 1:30 PM for guests with disabilities and elderly guests requiring individualized assistance. Early admission will be granted to the person requiring assistance and one (1) ticketed companion only.
- At the conclusion of the ceremony, parents and guests are to remain in their seats. You should pre-arrange to meet at the Campus Green in front of the Convocation Center for family gatherings and photographs.
- Caps may not be thrown in the Convocation Center.

CONDUCT OF GRADUATES AND GUESTS

- Commencement is an optional, dignified, formal ceremony for graduating seniors, their families, and guests. Students who do not meet the level of expected behavior during the ceremony will not receive a diploma as they cross the stage and will have to report to the school the following week to obtain it.
- We ask the cooperation of all that attend the commencement ceremony to help make it the formal ceremony it is meant to be. Please refrain from any inappropriate noises that will detract from the dignity of the ceremony.
- Since this ceremony is an official function of Walton High School, all Cobb County School District and Walton High School policies, rules, and regulations are in effect.

PARKING

- **KSU charges a \$10.00 parking fee per car to be paid by credit card upon entering the parking deck or lot.** Cash will not be accepted. There will not be an option for guests to pre-pay parking fees.
- **Graduates** are to park in the Central Parking Deck. Graduates should 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.
- Graduates and their guests cannot interfere with traffic flow to drop off family and friends.

COMMENCEMENT PHOTOS

- Guests are to remain in their seats throughout the commencement ceremony. Only hand-held cameras that do not block the view of other guests may be used.
- Guests may not walk into the aisles to take photographs.
- We have arranged for *CADY Studios* to take an individual photograph of each graduate. These will be available to view and purchase after commencement. Parents and graduates must deal directly with the vendor to receive these products.

VIDEO SALES

Videos will be offered for sale through the commencement information page on the district website. Please check www.cobbk12.org/graduation for more details.




FLOWER/GIFT SALES

Flowers and graduation gifts will be available for purchase in the Atrium (lobby) and outside the venue both before and after the ceremony.

BAG CHECK

In accordance with KSU requirements, all persons entering the Convocation Center must pass through metal detection devices. Also, guests entering the Convocation Center with a bag **MUST** use either a **CLEAR TOTE**, **PLASTIC ZIP TOP BAG**, or **SMALL CLUTCH** to be approved for entry into the venue. All bags and packages are subject to 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.

Please see the description provided regarding clear totes, plastic zip top bags, and small clutches.

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-managed venue. A complete list of prohibited items is available on the district graduation web page (www.cobbk12.org/graduation).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Seniors will need to request a final transcript if they are planning to attend college. Final transcripts are NOT mailed automatically – students must request that one be sent. The cost is \$2.00 per transcript request.
- Students are identified as honor graduates if they have a minimum, unrounded 3.500 GPA.
- Restitution for any damage to the venue, district property, or vendor property will be the responsibility of the graduate(s) and/or audience who cause the damage.
- If you have any questions, please contact Matthew Short (Graduation Administrator) at matthew.short@cobbk12.org.

COMMENCEMENT TIMELINE

- Friday, February 28: Deadline to request commencement tickets
- Week of March 17: Graduation contract sent to students by email
- Wednesday, April 16: Senior Picnic, Yearbook, and Cap/Gown distribution
- Monday, May 12: Final exams for periods 5, 6 & 7
- Tuesday, May 13: Final exams for periods 3 & 4
- Wednesday, May 14: Final exams for periods 1 & 2
- Friday, May 16: Deadline for senior clearance (completing courses, paying outstanding fines)
- Tuesday, May 20 and Wednesday, May 21: Commencement Practice at 12:45 PM in the Walton Gymnasium (students will receive tickets, final report cards, and any cords and stoles).
- Thursday, May 22: Commencement at 2:30 PM. Students should arrive at the Siegel Recreation Center by 1:00 PM.

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