

Wheeler High School

Class of 2026

Commencement Information and Schedule of Activities

Tuesday, May 19, 2026, 7:30 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, take 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

COMMENCEMENT TICKETS

- Every person entering the event, including infants, **MUST** have a ticket.
- Tickets will be distributed to each graduate during commencement practice on Monday, May 18th.
- Tickets will not be provided to students who choose **not** to participate in the ceremony.
- 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.
- 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- Once a ticket is scanned for entry into the venue, it is no longer valid.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.

SENIOR CLEARANCE

- All graduates will be expected to sign a contract that defines expectations and behaviors for the Wheeler High School ceremony.
- Seniors need to be cleared from all outstanding fees prior to graduation practice on May 18th at 8:30 am.
- All fees for lost or damaged textbooks, media materials, parking, classroom instructional equipment, CCSD-issued laptops, uniforms, or any other materials owed to the school must be cleared by or at this time.
- Textbooks and CCSD laptops should be returned no later than May 13th, unless the student is taking an AP exam after this date. Students are required to use a school laptop for AP exams. Once the exam is complete, students can return their laptop to the media center.
- Administration will notify parents of uncleared students before rehearsal.

FINAL EXAMS

- May 11th A-day (skinnies)
- May 12th 3rd & 4th Period
- May 13th 1st & 2nd Period

COURSE EXTENSION

- Course Extension begins Thursday, May 14th and ends Friday, May 15th.
- Time: 8:20 am to 3:30 pm In the Media Center
- **Seniors requiring Course Extension are at risk of their names not being printed in the commencement ceremony program.**

COMMENCEMENT PRACTICE

- **Practice is mandatory for participation in the commencement ceremony.**
- **Graduation Practice:**
 - Wednesday, May 13th 11:30 am – Performing Arts Center
 - Monday, May 18th 8:30 am - Arena
- **Ticket Distribution:**
 - Monday, May 18th following graduation practice
- **Technical Rehearsal:**
 - Monday, May 18th 12:45 pm – 1:30 pm – KSU Convocation Center – **ONLY** individuals with speaking or performance parts.
- All policies, rules, and regulations of the Cobb County School District and Wheeler High School will be enforced.
- No food or drink will be allowed during practices.
- Must have completed Senior Clearance and submitted a signed graduation contract **BEFORE** rehearsal.
- Honor cords and stoles will be distributed to qualifying students during the May 18th graduation practice.

COMMENCEMENT ATTIRE

- Graduates are expected to wear academic regalia available from the school's graduation vendor.
- 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.
- Graduates may only wear stoles, cords, and other insignia authorized by the school.
- 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.

COMMENCEMENT DAY/ENTRY

- **Tuesday, May 19, 2025, 7:30 pm – Kennesaw State University Convocation Center**
- Graduates will line up at **6:00 pm** on the basketball courts in the **Siegel Recreation Center**. Graduates should NOT have any bags, as there is no place to store personal items in the Siegel Recreation Center. **In accordance with KSU requirements, all graduates and staff must pass through metal detectors upon arriving for line-up.**
- To participate in the ceremony, each student must have a gown with a matching mortarboard and tassel. To order a cap and gown, please visit atlgrad.com as soon as possible.
- **Guest Assistance:** Guests with disabilities, limited mobility, and elderly guests needing individualized assistance may enter through the designated door beginning at **6:30 pm**. Early admission will be granted to the person requiring assistance and one (1) ticketed companion only. Ushers will be available at the doors and throughout the Convocation Center to assist guests needing assistance.
- Guests may enter the Convocation Center beginning at **6:45 pm**.
- Following the ceremony, graduates and families should meet on the Campus Green in front of the Convocation Center for family gatherings and photographs.

CONDUCT OF GUESTS AND GRADUATES

Commencement is an exciting occasion for graduates, their families, and guests. Please follow these guidelines and be considerate of other family members and guests so that everyone may have a memorable experience:

- All graduates will be expected to sign a contract that defines expectations and behaviors for the Wheeler High School ceremony.
- Saving seats in the Convocation Center is NOT permitted. Seats are available on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Balloons and signs are not permitted in the venue. Strollers are not permitted in the venue.
- All aisles, stairwells, and doorways must always remain clear. Standing along railings is not permitted.
- The use of tripods, monopods, selfie-sticks, and other camera stabilizing devices is not permitted.
- Guests are not permitted to move forward of the rope line on the arena floor. This area is reserved for graduates and processing faculty only.
- Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices prior to the start of the ceremony.
- Behavior at the ceremony and practices must be exemplary. Throwing caps in the KSU Convocation Center is inappropriate, dangerous, and not permitted. Restitution for any damage to the venue or district property will be the responsibility of the graduate or guest who causes said damage.
- Commencement is an optional, dignified, solemn ceremony designed to honor all graduates in the Class of 2026. No individual has the right to disrupt this event.
- Anyone causing a disturbance or in any way conducting themselves inappropriately during the ceremony will be removed.
- All policies, rules, and regulations of Cobb County School District and Wheeler High School will be enforced during the rehearsal and ceremony.
- We ask the cooperation of all who attend commencement to make this a dignified ceremony. Please refrain from inappropriate noise that might detract from the dignity of the ceremony.
- Plan to arrive on time. Late arrivals are disruptive to other guests and the graduates. Doors from the atrium/lobby to the arena space will be closed during the processional and national anthem.

PARKING

- KSU charges a **parking fee of ten dollars (\$10.00) per vehicle**. Graduates and guests should be prepared to pay with a credit/debit card upon entering the parking deck or lot. No cash will be accepted.

Parking Locations

Graduates	Central Parking Deck – bring/wear comfortable shoes for walking from the Central Parking Deck to the Siegel Recreation Center.
Guests	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	Lot A or Lot B. Golf carts will run continuously to transport guests to and from the Convocation Center.

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. Via email, *Cady Studios* will provide each graduate with a unique ordering code.

VIDEOS

- Video sales will be made available online on the school district website www.cobbk12.org/graduation and can be ordered in the atrium of the Convocation Center.
- The school district will provide a live webcast of the commencement ceremony. The webcast will be publicly available via the school district website www.cobbk12.org/graduation.

FLOWER/GIFT SALES

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

PROHIBITED ITEMS

- KSU will only allow for clear, empty water bottles inside of the facility. These may be refilled at stations inside the venue.
- 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 SECURITY MEASURES REQUIRED BY KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY

In accordance with KSU requirements, all persons entering the Convocation Center must pass through metal detection devices. Also, guests entering the facility with a bag **MUST** use either a CLEAR TOTE, PLASTIC ZIP TOP BAG, or SMALL CLUTCH to be approved for entry into the venue. Please do not bring any packages that cannot be opened or inspected. Also, please allow extra time for entry as there may be delays.

***All bags including diaper bags and camera bags must comply with the clear bag policy.**

KSU requires that all people entering the facility submit all bags for inspection by public safety personnel.

Please see the description below regarding clear totes 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• All bags are subject to search	<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

DIPLOMA DISTRIBUTION

- Diplomas will be available for pick up in the Counseling Office
 - **Tuesday, May 26th**, 9 am – 12 pm
 - **Wednesday, May 27th**, 1 pm – 3 pm

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Participation in the ceremony is optional and a privilege. Students must meet all expectations and requirements to participate.
- Students are identified as honor graduates if they have a cumulative GPA of 3.500 (not rounded).
- One official final transcript will be provided to graduates free of charge. There will be a \$2.00 fee for each additional transcript request.
- For additional information and updates, please check the commencement page on the district website: www.cobbk12.org/graduation.
- If you have any questions, please contact:
 - Ann Nemeck (Graduation Administrator) at ann.nemeck@cobbk12.org