

PPEA CLASS OF 2020 – GRADUATION INFORMATION PACKET
THIS YEAR'S COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY WILL BE HELD ON MAY 16, 2020
AT STARKEY ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH
8800 STARKEY ROAD, SEMINOLE, FL 33777

MANDATORY DATES AND DEADLINES TO REMEMBER:

Missing deadlines or mandatory meetings may result in the student being no longer eligible to participate in graduation. There will be no refund of fees paid.

Please put these dates on your calendar now.

January 31, 2020 - Graduation Registration Deadline

- PPEA membership completed and paid
- Graduation application completed and paid:
 - \$200.00 by November 30, 2019
 - \$225.00 from December 1, 2019 - January 31, 2020 (registration will close after this date)
- Graduation fee includes:
 - Graduation packet
 - Senior brunch
 - Cap, gown, and tassel
 - Graduation photo package from Moorman Photographics
 - Reserved senior table
 - Reserved parent and family seating at graduation
 - Graduation rehearsal dinner
 - DVD of the commencement ceremony
- Deadline for speech submissions and video application of talent

Seniors are encouraged to demonstrate their talent or give a speech at the graduation ceremony. This will make the program more meaningful. Performing a talent/speech is not a guarantee. Auditions can be submitted online. There are limited spaces available, so please apply early if you are interested! To apply, please send an email to ppeagrad@gmail.com with the talent information. The deadline to apply is January 31, 2020.

We will also need seniors to participate in:

- Opening the graduation ceremony
- Singing and signing the National Anthem (please submit audition video)
- Leading the Pledge of Allegiance
- Giving the senior speech (please submit copy of speech)

If you are interested in participating in any of these areas please send an email to ppeagrad@gmail.com by January 31, 2020.

February 28, 2020 - Program info deadline - email to ppeagrad@gmail.com

- Senior Biography (145-155 words in length, Bible verse not included in word count)
- Parent Charge (150 words or less, including verse)
- Graduate "Thank You" message to parents (75 words maximum)
- Five pictures for PowerPoint presentation (1 baby, 2-3 growing up, 1-2 senior)
- One senior headshot photo to be used for the biography in the program. This photo can be one of your senior shots from the PowerPoint presentation.

You will find further details and samples of the above requirements on pages 4-6 of this packet.

If you have questions you may contact the coordinator, Dayna Anderson at ppeagrad@gmail.com or (727) 522-8646.

March 28, 2020 - Graduation Brunch, from 10:00 am -1:00 pm, Starkey Road Baptist Church

- Hand out caps and gowns
- Take senior class picture for the graduation program
- Select grad senior table
Let me know today if you would like to share a table with someone
- Reserve parent seating
Reserved seating is for immediate family (parents, siblings, grandparents). Parents of the graduate should plan to sit on the aisle because they join the graduate for the presentation of the diploma and turning of the tassel. Siblings/grandparents may not join the senior on stage.

The senior photo for the program cover will be taken at this meeting. Please adhere to the following guidelines for appropriate attire:

Ladies must have on an appropriate dress or skirt with the length not shorter than five inches above mid-knee and no longer than the hem of the graduation gown. You must wear open or closed toe dress shoes. No flip flops, no tennis shoes (Converse), no boots of any kind. Gentlemen must wear a dress shirt with tie, dark dress pants, and dark dress shoes.

May 15, 2020 - Graduation Rehearsal, from 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm, Starkey Road Baptist Church

- Parents and graduate MUST attend. If you plan to be on stage, then you MUST be at this rehearsal. Siblings and grandparents will not enjoy the process so you may want to make other plans for them. Please plan on arriving on time and staying for the entire rehearsal.
- Graduate table setup will be from 4:00 pm-5:00 pm. Tables must be completed this evening and comply with the following guidelines:
Most tables do not have an electrical outlet. Bring an extension cord if you need power. You only have three-foot length of a table. You may want to practice setting up your table at home, so that you know where everything goes. It is not polite to "bleed over" into your neighbor's space. Do not plan on using floor space next to a table or the seating areas.
Each table will be covered with a black plastic cover, but you may use your own tablecloth over that if you wish. Candy may be set on your table, and many seniors use a guestbook and a basket or box for cards.
Make sure your name is on your board or table so that all of your guests will know this is your space.
Parents - please monitor the wording on your student's board. It is our desire that these boards be honoring to the Lord and your family.
We ask that you please not display any naked baby photos.
- This is a DRESS REHEARSAL! The class group picture will be taken at this rehearsal. **Seniors need to dress as they would for graduation.**
Ladies must have on an appropriate dress or skirt with the length not shorter than five inches above mid-knee and no longer than the hem of the graduation gown. You must wear open or closed toe dress shoes. No flip flops, no tennis shoes (Converse), no boots of any kind.
Gentlemen must wear a dress shirt with tie, dark dress pants, and dark dress shoes.
- Don't forget your cap and gown.
If you plan on decorating your graduation cap you must keep all decorations on the top completely and do not have anything raised beyond one inch on it. If you have lights of any kind, they must be able to be turned off during the complete graduation ceremony, and you must not be able to see any lighting cords hanging on the outside of the gown or hat.
- Students presenting a talent will be asked to do a microphone check for the tech team.
- Graduates will meet their parents on the steps to the stage. If you are not able to climb the steps, please let us know.
- Bring your camera. Rehearsal and after the ceremony will be your best chance to capture your memories.

May 16, 2019 - Graduation, from 9:00 am - 12:30 pm, Starkey Road Baptist Church

- Graduates will arrive no later than 9:00 am.
- Graduates must be in the designated room (ready to go, in cap and gown) no later than 9:30 am. **Cell phones and valuables MUST be left with your family.** Do NOT leave them in the room or plan to take them on stage.
- Please come in appropriate attire. Please refer to the rehearsal guidelines for attire. Failure to comply with attire guidelines may result in your student not participating in the commencement ceremony. There will be no refund of fees paid.
- No cell phones, gum, or snacks on stage. No bull horns, air horns, or loud noise makers!
- Graduation photo etiquette:
You will not be able to take flash pictures during the actual ceremony.
You will not be able to leave your seats or stand during the ceremony for pictures.
There will be no use of a tripod unless you stand at the back of the church.

Please note: It is not appropriate to impede the work of our professionals. This could affect the quality of someone else's graduation pictures. Please tell your friends to follow the rules. Rob Moorman is our professional graduation photographer. He will take the graduation photo package. The package will include the senior class photo, a picture of the grad entering, a picture of the parents and grad during the diploma/tassel moment, and candid shots. This package is included in your graduation fee.

Additional Information

Information to give your extended friends and family that cannot make it to graduation concerning the livestream: you have two options for viewing the ceremony if you cannot be with us that day. You may log onto srbc.org and follow the livestreaming prompts 1-2 minutes before the graduation starts or you can go the Starkey Road Baptist Church Facebook page 1-2 minutes before the ceremony and watch it live.

Important traffic pattern information for after the ceremony: as you exit the property onto Starkey Road please use the 86th avenue exit from the property that will take you to the traffic light. Please tell all your friends and family members.

Program Information and Pictures

Senior Biography - (145-155 words in length, Bible verse not included in word count)

This is to introduce your senior. Include birth date/place, honors/awards, dual enrollment, job, special events, and future plans.

Sample Biography

Lydia Anderson was born on April 11, 2000, in St. Petersburg. Lydia treasures the little things in life such as reading classics with her family, coffee with friends, Broadway musicals, laughing till her sides hurt, getting mail, that last piece of chocolate cake, old movies, and Disney's

FastPass, but most of all, quiet mornings with an open Bible on her lap. She is both a blackbelt and a ballerina, graceful yet strong, and still always running into things. She has served on two mission trips. Lydia joined the Duke TIP, Eta Sigma Alpha, and Mu Eta Alpha societies. Lydia will be attending the Honors Program at USF this fall and has been invited to the Chancellor's Leadership Council. She is double majoring in Anthropology and History. Lydia has been abundantly blessed by her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in this chapter of her life, and as she closes it, she excitedly awaits His promises ahead.

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future.” – Jeremiah 29:11

Parent Challenge - (150 words or less, including verse)

This is a message from the parents to the senior. It may include a Bible verse or what you have prayed for your child. It may be inspirational or funny. It will be read aloud to your senior during the diploma/tassel moment. NOT over 150 words!

Sample Parent Challenge

Lydia, my verse for you comes from the book of Malachi chapter 3.

Test me in this and see if I don't open up heaven itself to you and pour out blessings beyond your wildest dreams.

We all know that you have big dreams. Your dreams will come true if you have the courage to pursue them. Live the life you have imagined. Strive for excellence and be open to the moment that is unfolding before you. Your life is made up of moments and each one will be special.

You were not made to fit in but to stand out. Let not your words and actions draw attention to yourself but to God and live the kind of life that leads others to Him. Never lose your curious, adventuresome spirit, and always try to believe in at least six impossible things every day before breakfast.

Graduate Thank You - (75 words maximum)

This is a thank you from the student to the parents. Please spend a few moments on writing it; your parents have invested time in your life. DO NOT ask your parents to proof it or email it. This is a surprise for them! This will be shown towards the end of the ceremony. 75 words MAX!

Sample Graduate Thank You

Every time my friends say, “Wow! You sound just like your parents!” my heart swells. You are my inspiration and the glue that holds our family together. Thank you for pushing me to reach for the stars, catching me when I fall, and reminding me to fight for the good left in this world. God knew I needed you. I hope to walk in your footsteps, for they were taken in strength and dignity.

Senior Pictures - (5 pictures)

This is an opportunity for the audience to watch the seniors grow up. Pictures need to be labeled with the senior's last name and number. Example - Smith01. You will need:

- A baby picture labeled #1
- 3 pictures of senior "growing up" labeled from youngest to oldest #2, #3, #4
- Senior portrait labeled #5

Please be appropriate in your picture choice. That naked baby picture might be adorable, but it is not appropriate for this occasion.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Class Facebook Page

The Class of 2020 has a Facebook page: **PPEA Class of 2020**. This is a place for you all to connect during your senior year.

- Parents are welcome to join the page.
- Parents please remember that events posted on the Facebook page are not PPEA events unless the sign-up is on the PPEA website.
- Be courteous to your classmates. Sometimes you will want to have an event where everyone is welcome. Please post those on the class Facebook page! Sometimes you will want to hang with a group of close friends. Please post those on your own page or message people privately.

High School Events

Seniors are encouraged to join their classmates and friends for all high school and senior events. The more time you spend together, the more fun your senior year will be!

Honors Regalia, Invitations, Diplomas, etc.

Honors Regalia

- PPEA graduates **MUST** wear the official PPEA cap, gown, and tassel. These may not be substituted.
- If a student is also graduating at St. Petersburg College, they may choose to wear any honor cords they were awarded by the college.
- If a student participates in a school program, such as Chosen, Classical Conversations, or Wellmont, the school may choose a color code of honor stole for their students to wear.
- You may use any vendor you choose for honor cords and sashes.

PPEA Honor Cord Guidelines

Stoles and cords are a part of graduation ceremonies. Below is a list of suggested guidelines adopted by the PPEA to help you as the homeschool parent determine which honor cords your child may have earned.

- **English - White**
4 credits or more with a minimum GPA of 3.5
- **Mathematics - Light Blue**
4 credits or more of a college- prep mathematics program (Algebra I, Geometry, Advanced Algebra (II), Pre-Calculus and/or Calculus) with a minimum GPA of 3.5
- **Honors - Gold**
There is a chapter of the National Honor Society for homeschoolers, Eta Sigma Alpha. The requirements for can be found online. <http://www.etasigmaalpha.com/>
There is also a chapter of the National Math Honor Society for the Homeschool Community, Mu Eta Sigma. The requirements can be found online. <https://www.mathhonorsociety.com/>
- **Science - Burgundy**
4 credits or more of science with a minimum GPA of 3.5 including at least 2 of the following courses: Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Anatomy & Physiology
- **Social Studies - Navy Blue**
4 credits or more with a minimum GPA of 3.5. Possible classes include: US History, Government, British History, World History
- **World Languages - Red**
4 credits or more of the same Foreign Language with a minimum GPA of 3.
- **Fine Arts -Forest Green**
Art: at least 3 credits with a minimum GPA of 3.5
Music: active in a band, vocal, choir or instrumental music program for at least 3 years with a minimum GPA 3.5
- **Technology - Copper**
3 credits or more of technology courses with a minimum GPA of 3.5
- **College Credit - Royal Blue**
Completing college classes that result in earning college credit
- **Business - Red, White & Blue**
3 credits earned in business classes with a minimum GPA of 3.5
Computer classes may be counted, as well as job experience
- **Community Service:**
Purple - 100+ Hours of Community Service
Silver - 250+ Hours of Community Service
- **Military - Black**
participation in ROTC, Civil Air Patrol, or similar program
- **Perseverance - Pink**
Awarded to a student who has demonstrated perseverance

Invitations - You may use any invitation you wish.

- You may invite as many people as you want.
- **You may want to let your friends know to arrive early. We will close sanctuary doors to seating guests as the seniors march in. So, it is a good idea to be a little early.**
- We need to exit the church by 1:00 pm, if you wish to continue to party with your family and friends, please plan a reception at another location...and party on!

Diplomas

Your student will receive a Certificate of Participation for graduation. You may use your own diploma during the ceremony if you prefer. You may use any vendor you wish for a diploma. For example, www.homeschooldiploma.com.

Important Contacts

PPEA Chair/Co-chair	boardcontact@mypeea.com
PPEA Grad Coordinator	ppeagrad@gmail.com
Photographer - Rob Moorman	cameradude1@gmail.com (727) 527-1237
Homeschool Diplomas	www.homeschooldiploma.com
Other Grad Supplies:	www.hsdl.com
	www.jostens.com
	www.milligans.com

In order to make this senior year a memorable one there are several positions that should be filled by parents of a graduating senior. Please let us know if you are interested in helping in any of the following areas:

Design, order, and distribute the Class of 2020 Senior T-shirts

Organize monthly senior-only events

Host the Senior Christmas Party

Take on the job of creating a Class Yearbook

Organize Grad Bash event at Universal Studios on April 18, 2020

