



MODESTO CITY SCHOOLS

# THOMAS DOWNEY HIGH SCHOOL

1000 Coffee Road, Modesto, CA 95355 (209) 574-1685 [www.downey.mcs4kids.com](http://www.downey.mcs4kids.com)

Hello Senior Parents,

As we approach the end of year, I wanted to ensure that you are fully informed regarding senior activities and graduation requirements as we celebrate the success of your students. Below are some important dates as well as information that you will need to help your son/daughter finish their high school career strong.

---

May 2: Senior Awards Nights at 5:30 PM.

- All seniors receiving an award will be sent a personalized invitation.

May 9: Senior Clearance Forms will be distributed through English classes

- Each year senior must complete a form with staff members signing off that they have passed their classes, do not owe any money, have turned in their books, etc. This form must be submitted completed to their counselor to participate in Graduation Ceremonies.

May 14: Prom – at Dutch Hollow Farms from 8:00-11:00 PM

- Ticket sales will tentatively begin on April 18 and extend through May 13.
- The cost is one ticket for \$45 or two for \$80 and can be purchased in the Student Center.
- Guest passes are due to office of Climate and Culture no later than Wednesday May 11 at 3:00 PM

May 18: Senior Trip to Disneyland

- 2:00 AM- Seniors arrive to the Downey cafeteria
- 2:00 – 3:00 AM- check backpacks (note: only pre-packaged food will be allowed on the bus)
- 3:00 AM- Leave for Disneyland
- We will arrive back to Downey on May 19 at approximately 10:00 AM. Seniors will go home and rest.

May 20: Senior Clearance Form Due

May 23: Senior Sunset (More information on this event will be sent out as we get closer)

May 24: Graduation Practice- Part I

- Graduating seniors will go to the auditorium when school starts. We will walk them through the ceremony, practice reading their names, and answer any question they might have. (Note: all students on MVA and students who graduated early but will be participating in the ceremony must attend this event.)

May 25: Graduation

- Graduation practice part II- Student must be at Downey's stadium by 8:00 AM. (Note: all students on MVA and students who graduated early but will be participating in the ceremony must attend this event.)
- Graduation starts at 7:30 PM
- Students must arrive at 6:00 PM and the gates open at that same time
- Each graduate will receive eight tickets.
- Sober Grad Night- for those seniors who are attending sober graduation, after the ceremony they will board the bus and head to San Francisco Bay for the cruise. Keep in mind, this is a parent sponsored event.

May 26: Last day of school!

- Any senior who attended Sober Grad Night will receive their diploma after getting off the bus. All other seniors can come to Downey on May 26 to pick up their diploma in the Student Center.

Note: Graduation Gown Distribution will occur on multiple dates leading up to graduation. Seniors should listen to school announcements to know when these dates will occur. To purchase caps, gowns and tassel, please log onto Downey's website and select the "Jostens Senior Cap & Gown Orders" tab.

---

## **Graduation Ceremony and Senior Activity Eligibility Information**

**Graduation Ceremony:** The Downey High School Graduation is on Wednesday May 25, at 7:30 PM in the Downey High School stadium. Doors will open at 6:00 PM. There is no reserved seating. Each graduate will receive 8 tickets. Tickets are required for admission to the ceremony. Students are expected to dress in keeping with a dignified event. Dresses or slacks/skirt and a blouse for girls. Boys are to wear long pants and a collared shirt. Students must wear a school issued cap and gown. Caps cannot be decorated.

---

**Graduation Requirements:** To qualify for graduation and participation in the ceremony, a senior must have successfully completed a minimum of 230 credits or qualified for the minimum state graduation requirements, and completed district-adopted course requirements. Seniors must complete all requirements to participate in the graduation ceremony.

*In addition to the academic requirements,* a senior must comply with the district's expectations of behavior and attendance to qualify for the graduation ceremony and other senior activities. Seniors must maintain good citizenship during the third and fourth quarters. The MCS Conduct Code is clear regarding expectations of behavior and attendance.

### **Eligibility for Senior Activities including the graduation ceremony, prom and the senior trip include:**

**Academic Grades** – Students must pass all required courses to earn their high school diploma.

**Citizenship Marks** – Students with 2 or more unsatisfactory citizenship marks are not eligible for any senior activities including the graduation ceremonies.

**Conduct Code Infractions** – Students are not eligible for graduation for the following infractions.

- Step 6 Truancy
- Four-day or five-day home suspension
- Two or more suspensions
- Involuntary transfer to Alternative Education
- Drug or Alcohol use or possession

**Unpaid Debt** – All debts must be paid prior to participating in the graduation ceremony. Including loss of books/devices, damage to school property or other outstanding debt

---

I am looking forward to partnering with you to ensure our seniors are celebrated and recognized for their hard work during the last four years at Downey High School. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the end of the year activities, please don't hesitate to reach out to the front office.

Sincerely,



David Sanchez  
Principal  
Thomas Downey High School