

Congratulations to the Class of 2017 and their families,

Our hope is that all graduating students will have an enjoyable and rewarding finish to their tenure as students at Hononegah Community High School. I ask that you carefully review the following information to ensure a smooth finish to the year.

I am writing to provide you with specific information regarding the end of the school year, graduation practice, and graduation. Hopefully, this information will answer many of your questions. If not, please contact the principal's office 815-624-5005.

**END OF SCHOOL:** The last day of student attendance for graduating seniors will be Friday, May 19, 2017. Prior to leaving school that day, seniors must complete and turn in their clearance slip signifying that all school materials have been returned and all financial obligations have been met. They should also clean out their locker. All items left will be donated to a local charity.

**FINAL EXAMS:** Teachers are not required to administer final exams to seniors except in situations where successful completion of a course is dependent upon the student passing an exam. Teachers may administer exams to seniors in any course. It is a teacher choice and decision. Exams must be completed by the end of the day on Friday, May 19, 2017.

**APPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR:** Seniors are expected to behave appropriately at school and at all school functions. Seniors who receive consequences for behavior choices (teacher detentions, suspensions, etc.) must have these obligations fulfilled before Friday, May 19, 2017. If a senior has not fulfilled his/her consequence, he/she will not be allowed to participate in the Graduation Ceremony. **Senior class pranks will not be tolerated and may result in a loss of participation in the Graduation Ceremony. Criminal charges will be filed where appropriate.**

**GRADUATION REHEARSAL:** Rehearsal will be on Friday, May 26, 2017, at 4 p.m. in the gym at Hononegah Community High School. Students **MUST ATTEND THE REHEARSAL** in order to participate in the graduation ceremony--so make plans now with employers, etc. The rehearsal will last approximately one hour. All speakers will practice afterwards. A copy of each speech must be given to the Principal at that time. Students do not wear cap and gown for practice.

**GRADUATION CEREMONY:** The Graduation Ceremony will be held at the BMO Harris Centre at 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 27, 2017. **You will not need tickets to attend the ceremony.** The BMO Harris Centre doors will be opened to the public at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 27. Spectators should enter through the main entrance—lower lobby.

- Graduates will also enter through the main entrance of the building. Graduates need to arrive no later than 1:15 p.m.
- The City of Rockford will be charging a \$5 parking fee in parking decks and flat lots. Parking meters typically are 1 hour or less around the building.
- Parents and guests are not permitted on the main floor of the Metro Centre before and during the commencement exercise. Remember that we have scheduled professional photographers to take pictures. **The purchase of pictures is optional.** This service is being made available so that parents do not have to leave their seats to take pictures of this particular event.
- Seating for the disabled will be available. Enter through the main lobby and proceed directly to the nearest usher who will provide accommodations. Only one person will be allowed to accompany the guest with a disability.
- BMO Harris Bank Center will have their concessions open and no outside food or drink will be allowed.
- The ceremony will begin promptly at 2 p.m. and should last approximately 1 hour and 45 minutes.
- After the ceremony, plan on meeting your graduate on Elm Street (located on the north side of the building). The recessional will take the graduates immediately out of the building. Elm Street will be closed to traffic during our event. Make arrangements to meet at a location away from the exit door to permit graduates and families to quickly disperse from the arena and area.
- **Appropriate Attire: There will be NO signs, messages, etc., on the gowns or the caps. There should be no flowers on the gown. Males should wear dress slacks, shirt with collar, dress shoes and females should wear a dress, blouse and skirt or dress pants with dress shoes and bring bobby pins to hold cap in place. Cap and Gown are REQUIRED. Please iron your gown on low heat.**

**WE ARE ASKING FOR YOUR HELP:** We hope that we can maintain a dignity around this important ceremony. Blown up beach balls, bounced balls, squirted "silly string", bull horns are not appropriate. Graduation parties are more appropriate for "celebrations of this nature." Please discuss this issue with your graduate. We want to do everything possible to make this activity a cherished memory for ALL of our students. A good rule of thumb, if the action takes attention away from the ceremony and focuses on an individual or group of individuals, then it is inappropriate and unacceptable. Security will remove any individuals behaving inappropriately. Thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation.

**P.S. All graduating seniors are required to complete a Senior Exit Survey and final Transcript Request by Wednesday, May 3. To complete, go to [www.hononegahguidance.org/](http://www.hononegahguidance.org/) click on Start Survey.**

Sincerely,

Mr. Eric Flohr, Principal