

2019 GRADUATION INFORMATION PACKET

FOR THE

***North Texas
Home Educators Network***

27th Annual

**Graduation Exercises
&
Commencement Ceremonies**

SCHEDULED FOR

Saturday, May 25, 2019, 2:00p.m.

TO BE HELD AT

Arapaho Road Baptist Church

2256 Arapaho Road
Garland, Texas 75044





This Is Your Invitation!

You are cordially invited to participate in the 27th Annual North Texas Home Educators Network Homeschool Graduation Exercises & Commencement Ceremonies to be held at 2:00p.m. on May 25, 2019 at Arapaho Road Baptist Church, 2256 Arapaho Road, Garland, Texas 75044. We know of no event that compares with our Homeschool graduation and the memorable experience it provides for the graduate, their families, and friends.

If you have a high school student that will be graduating at the conclusion of the 2018-2019 academic year, and would like to know more about NTHEN's Graduation Exercises and Commencement Ceremonies, please review the detailed information herein and contact us with any questions you may have. We look forward to serving you during this most exciting time for you and your graduate.

The North Texas Home Educators' Network has provided a full program for graduating Homeschool seniors since 1992! We are one of the longest continually running Graduation and Commencement programs designed for Homeschooled students in the nation. The key to an outstanding and memorable event is to, first and foremost, cover it with prayer! Detailed planning, and parental & student involvement are the remaining key elements.

On **Wednesday, October 17, 2019, at 2:00p.m.**, an important informational meeting will be held at **Arapaho Road Baptist Church** for all those interested in participating in NTHEN's 2019 Graduation Exercises and Commencement Ceremonies. All details of this event will be thoroughly discussed and prospective graduates may sign up to participate at this meeting.

The graduation ceremony itself is very meaningful and often emotional (bring a box of tissues☺). Students participate from the very beginning of the ceremonies to the conclusion, and parents actually confer the high school diplomas personally to their student(s). The years of teaching and training come to an appropriate graduation (finish) and commencement (beginning) in a way unlike anything you've experienced previously!

Each ceremony includes a commencement speaker providing a message of encouragement and inspiration to the graduate and all who attend. Special music is also provided.

After the graduation ceremony, a grand reception for all the graduates and their families and friends is provided. Appropriate refreshments will be provided and served by NTHEN staff and everyone enjoys the festivities and excitement surrounding this event.

Also during this meeting, parents and students will begin planning activities for their senior year. **Please note that graduating student activities is a PARENT-LEAD function.** NTHEN has no responsibility for planning or accomplishing student activities. NTHEN's function is to simply act as a facilitator, as needed. A parent volunteer to lead this activity will be solicited.

In past years, student activities have been very diverse such as barbeques, swimming parties, sporting activities, cookouts, nights at the movies, and more! All of these activities provide opportunity for participating seniors to get to know one another and enjoy graduating with classmates, not strangers. Indeed, many become fast friends! This is such an important part of the Homeschooling experience and NTHEN encourages this type of fun, fellowship and activities.

Remember, all of the important meetings related to our 2019 Graduation, including the graduation event itself, will be held at **Arapaho Road Baptist Church, 2256 Arapaho Road, Garland, Texas 75044.** And, **YOU** are invited!



PLANNING MEETING MEMORANDIUM

TO: All Homeschool Families with a prospective 2019 graduate

FROM: Kathie Lunsford, NTHEN Vice president of Events and Director of Graduation Services

SUBJECT: 2019 Graduation Exercises and Commencement Ceremonies Planning Meeting Plus General Information About This Event

The initial **Graduation Planning Meeting** is scheduled for Wednesday, October 17, 2018, at 2:00p.m. Location of this meeting will be in the Choir Room at **Arapaho Road Baptist Church, 2256 Arapaho Road, Garland, Texas 75044**. We will be discussing the details of NTHEN's 27th annual Graduation Exercises and Commencement Ceremonies and the specific purpose of this meeting is to allow parents and graduating seniors alike to become informed and to begin to prepare for a day to celebrate twelve years or more of academic achievements!

Additionally, there will be a mandatory pre-graduation Rehearsal meeting at Arapaho Road Baptist Church on Wednesday, March 27, 2019 at 2:00p.m.

PLEASE PUT BOTH OF THESE DATES IN YOUR CALENDAR NOW!

At the Graduation Planning Meeting on October 17, 2018, and the Pre-graduation Rehearsal meeting on March 27, 2019, we will thoroughly discuss/review all of the important matters listed below. Please come to these meetings with the intention of not leaving with any unanswered question. Note-taking is encouraged!

- ❑ **The location for the 2019 Graduation Exercises and Commencement Ceremonies is Arapaho Road Baptist Church, 2256 Arapaho Road, Garland, Texas 75044. Please do not contact the church with any questions or concerns. All questions should be directed to NTHEN by email to graduation@nthen.org or by calling the NTHEN office at (972) 772-0082.**

“Rules and regulations”

Details of the actual conferring of diplomas.

The reception that follows the Graduation Exercises.

Times for preparation

Decorations and refreshments

Your graduates “table of honor and recognition”

Teardown and cleanup

Ordering diplomas and graduation announcements/invitations

Senior pictures

Senior class activities

Other expenses

Q & A

- Continued ... -

Costs to Participate in the 2019 Graduation & Commencement Exercise

The graduation fee is \$300.00 for each student. This fee includes all of the features and services shown on Page 5. Payment methods accepted are cash, check, money order; or, Visa, MasterCard, and Discover Card.

Additional cost and/or optional items that you may wish to consider purchasing

- ❖ Customized Diploma (leatherette outer case and professional certificate) - \$50 - \$65;
- ❖ Invitations/Announcements cost between \$50 - \$150 depending on style and quantity;
- ❖ Senior Pictures (NTHEN will have a professional photographer available on Graduation Day);
- ❖ Senior Ring;
- ❖ New suit/dress/shoes for the Graduation Exercises and Commencement Ceremonies;
- ❖ Private reception for your graduate.

Caps and Gowns

Caps and gowns will be available for distribution at the October 17, 2018 Planning Meeting to those graduates making application and payment that day to participate in our 2019 graduation event. Indeed, graduates are strongly encouraged to make application and pay their graduation fee in full at that initial planning meeting.

Those making application and payment after that date may certainly do so and application approval will be on a first come-first served basis. However, a \$15.00 fee for packaging and postage to send their cap, gown, and tassel to them will be assessed.

NTHEN's graduation colors are purple & white; the cap tassel will include a "2019" emblem.

The caps and gowns are purchased items, the cost of which is included in the graduation fee; therefore, they are yours to keep. Also, please note that with regard to graduation cap size, ONE SIZE FITS ALL!

Be sure to know your graduate's measurements in order to complete the form. Measurements needed are: Height (in shoes) and Weight. **DOUBLE CHECK MEASUREMENTS!** Full figure gowns are available at an additional cost of \$15.00 (total fee would then be \$315.00).

Graduate Guidelines Stipulations

As a participant in our Graduation Exercises and Commencement Ceremonies, parents and graduates understand and agree to the stipulations contained in the GRADUATION GUIDELINES section found on Pages 10,11, and 12 of this document. Those pages must be initialed/signed/completed as required and returned to NTHEN at the U. S Mail address, fax number, or email address shown below.

As we approach this very special time, I look forward to helping you in every way possible so that your student's graduation is meaningful, memorable and fulfilling.

Grace and Peace,

Kathie Lunsford

Vice President of Events and
Director of Graduation Services

Mailing Address:
North Texas Home Educators Network
709B West Rusk Street, #577
Rockwall, TX 75087
972-772-0082 (O)
972-722-7798 (F)
graduation@nthen.org

Graduation Fee

The \$300.00 Graduation Fee per student includes ...*

Item or Service

- Church Facility Usage including Church Sanctuary, Foyer, Rest Rooms, Reception Hall, Kitchen, Pre- Graduation Meeting Room, and Usage of All Parking Lots
- Sound & Lighting Technicians
- Decorations & Signage
- Reception Hall Setup and Decorations
- Cleanup of all facilities after the event
- Graduates Purple Cap & Gown*
- 2019 graduation year Tassel for Cap
- Provision of space for two Pre-graduation meetings
- Master of Ceremonies for the Event
- Commencement Speaker Honorarium
- Vocalist and/or Special Music Honorarium
- Pianist and/or Organist and/or Harpist Honorarium
- Graduation Programs - Development, Printing, Folding
- Floor Length Purple Tablecloth for your Graduate's Table of Honor
- Reception Server Staff
- Cakes & Punch for Graduate Reception
- Eating Utensils, Cups, Plates & Napkins
- All Transportation Costs

** Full figure gowns are an additional \$15.00*

Total value of these services if contracted separately:

Over \$900.00!

THIS PICTURE IS REPRESENTATIVE
OF NTHEN SPONSORED
HOME EDUCATED HIGH SCHOOL
GRADUATE CLASSES
OVER THE PAST 26 YEARS





NTHEN Statement of Faith

The purpose of this Statement of Faith is to set forth the Judeo Christian beliefs the Officers and Directors of The North Texas Home Educators' Network Board practice in their personal and professional lives.

First and foremost, we proclaim The Holy Bible to be the inspired Word of God, perfect as originally written under the direct inspiration of The Holy Spirit, and the complete revelation of God's will for salvation through faith through His Son, Jesus Christ.

(Exodus 24:4; Deuteronomy 4:1-2; II Timothy 3:15-16; Hebrews 4:12; II Peter 1:20-21)

Secondly, we testify that there is one and only one true God, Creator of all things, Who has existed from all eternity, in three Persons: God The Father, God The Son (Jesus Christ), and God The Holy Spirit. The eternal triune God reveals Himself to us with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being. All three Beings are perfect, omnipotent, omnipresent, omniscient, and have equal power, and all three Beings are deserving of praise, honor and worship.

(Genesis 1-3; I Chronicles 29:10; John 1:1-3; I Corinthians 8:6; Philippians 2:6-8; I Timothy 1:17; Hebrews 9:14; I John 5)

Thirdly, we believe in the deity of Jesus Christ, His miraculous conception by The Holy Spirit, His virgin birth, His sinless life, His substitutionary physical death on a cross, His Burial, His bodily resurrection on the third day, His ascension into Heaven to the right hand of God The Father, and we believe in His imminent return.

(Psalm 110:1; Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 27-28:10; John 16:28; Acts 1:11)

In addition, we confess that all men are in violation of God's righteous requirements and therefore, all men are subject to His wrath and just condemnation, which is an earthly death followed by eternal punishment in the lake of fire.

(Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23; Revelation 20:15)

However, God The Father, in His infinite wisdom and loving grace and mercy, provides The Way through His Son Jesus Christ. Salvation is offered as a free gift to all who will admit sin, believe on The Lord, and confess with their lips that Jesus is The Savior. This gift of salvation is an individual decision, based on faith, completely autonomous from any and all "good works." Salvation is obtained through the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ.

(John 3:16; 14: 6; Romans 4:24-5:2; I Corinthians 15:1-11; Ephesians 2:8-10; I John 1:8-10)

TEXAS HOMESCHOOLING LAW (Education Code)

Alternative Statutes Allowing for Home Schools:

1) Texas Education Code Annotated 21.033 (a) (1). "Any child in attendance upon a private or parochial school which shall include in its course a study of good citizenship" is exempt from the requirements of compulsory attendance. The class action suit, *Leeper v. Arlington Independent School District*, No. 17-88761-85 Tarrant County 17th Judicial Ct. Apr. 13, 1987, resulted in a trial level decision in favor of home schooling. The court ruled that:

a) Home schools can legally operate as private schools in Texas;

b) Article 7, section 2 of the Texas Constitution only authorizes the legislature to establish and maintain public education, not private or parochial education;

c) Home schools must be conducted in a bona fide manner, using a written curriculum consisting of reading, spelling, grammar, math and a course in good citizenship. No other requirements apply.

d) The court ruled that the interpretation of the law cannot be left to each criminal prosecution. "If arbitrary and discriminatory enforcement is to be prevented, laws must provide explicit standards for those who apply them."

e) This judgment does not preclude the Texas Education Agency, the Commissioner of Education, or the State Board of Education from suggesting to the public school attendance officer's lawful methods, including but not limited to **inquiry** concerning curricula and standardized test scores, in order to ascertain if there is compliance with the declaration contained in this judgment.

f) On November 27, 1991, the Court of Appeals of Texas completely affirmed the case (Leeper). The Court stated that the Texas Education Agency "deprived the Homeschool parents of equal protection under the law" since their private schools in the home were unfairly discriminated against "on the sole basis of location in the home," rather than outside the home.

g) On June 15, 1994, the Texas Supreme Court unanimously affirmed the Court of Appeals decision in TEA, et al. V. Leeper, et al.

2) In 1989, the Texas legislature exempted private and parochial schools from new requirements for schools, and in the process, confirmed that the term "private school" includes home schools. "Nothing in the act applies to students in attendance upon a private or parochial school, which includes home schools, in accordance with 21.033, Education Code."

Teacher Qualifications: None

Standardized Tests: None. The court in Leeper specifically stated that the school district could not regulate standardized testing.

“What high school level courses need to be successfully completed by my home-educated student in preparation for college entrance?”

[SUGGESTED HIGH SCHOOL COURSE OUTLINE FOR HOME SCHOOL GRADUATES SEEKING COLLEGE ADMISSION]

<u>Subject/Course</u>	<u>Generally Acceptable Minimum Requirements</u>	<u>Strongly Recommended</u>
Language Arts (Grammar, Composition, English, Literature, Writing)	4 Units/Credits	4 Units/Credits
Mathematics (Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, Trigonometry, Calculus, Statistics)	3 Units/Credits	4 Units/Credits
Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Anatomy, Physiology)	3 Units/Credits	4 Units/Credits
Social Studies (History, Government, Economics, Geography)	3 Units/Credits	4 Units/Credits
Foreign Language (Spanish, German, French, Russian, Sign Language)	2 Units/Credits (Same Language)	3 Units/Credits (Same Language)
Fine Arts (Bible, Drama, Art, Theatre, Drawing, Speech)	1/2 Unit/Credit	1 Unit/Credit
Health	1/2 Unit/Credit	1/2 Unit/Credit
Physical Education	1½ Units/Credits	1½ Units/Credits
Computer Science	1 Unit/Credit	2 Units/Credits
General Education (Philosophy, Humanities)	1½ Units/Credits	2 Units/Credits

In addition, most universities PREFER students that have achieved a high SAT score (1800 and higher) or a high ACT score (29 and higher). Your student should strive for these results. Note, however, that many colleges/universities *will accept* students with SAT or ACT scores lower than those shown above.

Additionally, entrance examinations may be required and other prerequisites may apply to each specific college or university. This information is offered merely as a guide for use by Homeschooled high school students.

To determine specific requirements for admission to the institution(s) of higher learning in which your student has interest, you should obtain an undergraduate catalog available from the Office of Admissions of those institutions and refer to admissions information contained therein.

GRADUATION GUIDELINES & AGREEMENT

In order to conduct Graduation Exercises and Commencement Ceremonies that will truly honor all graduating students, the following guidelines are required by NTHEN.

- **Setup of Your Graduate's Honor Table**

ON THE DAY OF GRADUATION (Saturday May 25, 2019), ALL TABLE DECORATIONS MUST BE SET UP AND COMPLETED BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 9:00a.m. AND 12:00 NOON (not before and not after as the facilities are in use). Decorations must be removed immediately after the reception. **All tables are 60" round and will include purple tablecloths provided by NTHEN. THE TABLE DECORATION IS A REQUIREMENT FOR PARTICIPATION IN NTHEN'S GRADUATION AND COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES.**

- **Respect for the Church Facilities and the Graduation Ceremony**

- Please, no "borrowing" of Church property (scissors, tape, etc.).
- Do not use Church telephones. Also, on the day of Graduation and on the several meeting dates outlined herein, the event coordinators telephone number will be 214-422-1156.
- Do not attach anything to any wall.
- Electricity is not available.
- Please do not bring children while you are decorating your graduate's table.
- On Graduation Day, **children must be supervised at all times.** They will not be allowed to "explore" the facilities or behave in an improper manner.
- Please promptly remove any crying or disturbing child during the Ceremonies in respect to the graduates and others in attendance.

Parent initials here: _____

- **Parent and Graduate Guidelines**

- Graduate agrees to wear the NTHEN designated cap, gown, and tassel during the Graduation Exercises and Commencement Ceremonies.
- Academic achievement designations (braid, sashes, pins, etc.) may NOT be worn DURING THE CEREMONY OR WHEN THE GROUP GRADUATION PICTURE IS TAKEN. After the ceremony at the reception is fine.
- **The pre-graduation day Rehearsal will be held on: Wednesday, March 27, 2019 at 2:00p.m. at Arapaho Road Baptist Church. Plan on approximately 1½ hours for this Rehearsal meeting.**
- **Also, ATTENDANCE AT THIS GRADUATION REHEARSAL IS MANDATORY! Please adjust your schedule/calendar EARLY so that parents and graduate can be at this meeting. THIS IS IMPORTANT!**

- A “walk-through” Rehearsal will be held on **the day of Graduation** in the Sanctuary at 12:00 Noon. **THIS IS ALSO A MANDATORY MEETING FOR ALL GRADUATES. PLEASE, DO NOT BE LATE FOR THIS FINAL REHEARSAL.**
- **The Graduation Ceremony will begin sharply at 2:00 p.m.**
- **Graduates, remember, THIS IS A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME FORMAL EVENT!**
- The dress code for all graduates is “Sunday-best”.
 - **No jeans or flip-flops.**
 - **No writing on caps or gowns.**
 - **Absolutely, no chewing gum!!**
 - **Sit erect with feet together during the ceremony.**
- Every graduate family agrees to decorate a 60” round table at the reception in honor of their graduate.
- **DO NOT BE LATE!** Make arrangements to be on time for all graduation functions. Lateness by just one graduate creates an undue burden on the entire ceremony, the event coordinating staff, and the other participating graduates.
- All cell telephones and pagers must be turned off or on “silent” or “vibrate” during the ceremony. **No exceptions!**
- No pets are allowed in the church except for service animals professionally trained to assist a physically impaired graduate, family member, or guest.
- Parents, BE PREPARED to confer your student’s diploma. Practice beforehand what you wish to say so that you will be more comfortable during your actual presentation. However, this is NOT the time or place to recite all the accomplishments your graduate has achieved during their years of Homeschooling.
- **Parents, you MUST adhere to a strict time limit of 2 minutes for conferring your graduate’s diploma. This is to keep the program timetable in balance and to be respectful of the other graduate families and their guests.**
- The dress code for parents (or others) conferring a diploma is “Sunday best”. Please, no jeans, shorts, or flip flops. **THIS IS A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME FORMAL EVENT!**
- GUESTS (family and others): Please inform all guests of these guidelines and especially encourage them to NOT BE LATE AND TO REMAIN SEATED DURING THE CEREMONY as movement during the ceremony can be very disruptive to other guests and to NTHEN staff conducting the ceremony. Also, improper behavior by one person towards another person or to church property will result in the removal of the offending person(s) from this event. This is a NO TOLERANCE requirement.

We agree to these NTHEN Guidelines for participation in their 2019 Graduation and Commencement Event.

Parent Signature and Date

Graduate Signature and Date



2019 Graduation Information Form

Please Print Clearly!!

TODAY'S DATE: ____/____/____

GRADUATE CANDIDATE INFORMATION:

Please Print Clearly!!

1. Graduate candidate's FULL Name: _____
2. Street Address (No P.O. Boxes): _____
3. City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
4. A. Your gender is: M F
B. Your height is: _____Ft. _____In.
C. Your date of birth is: ____/____/____
5. Graduate candidates's Home telephone #: (_____) _____
6. Graduate candidates's Cell telephone #: (_____) _____
7. Graduate candidates's E-Mail Address: _____

PARENTAL/GUARDIAN INFORMATION:

Please Print Clearly!!

8. Parent's/Guardian's Names: _____
9. Parent's/Guardian's e-mail address: _____/_____
10. Parent's/Guardian's telephone numbers: Cell: _____
Home: _____
11. By the date of graduation, how many years has your student has been homeschooled? _____
12. What is the name of the local homeschool support group of which your family is a member?

13. **Graduation Fee is \$300.00*** *Full figure gowns are an additional \$15.00 for a total of \$315.00

14. **PAYMENT METHODS ACCEPTED:**

A.	Check	_____ Check #: _____	Date of Check: ____/____/____	Amount Paid: \$ _____	
(Make checks payable to NTHEN and BE SURE TO PLACE YOUR GRADUATES NAME ON THE "MEMO" LINE!)					
B.	Credit Card	Visa—MC—Discover	Card #: _____	Exp. Date: ____/____/____	
		CVC #: _____	Name on Card: _____	Zip Code: _____	
C.	CASH	Amount Paid: \$ _____	Initials of NTHEN officer receiving cash: _____		

15. Date cap, gown, tassel provided to parent or graduate candidate: ____/____/____ **Initials:** _____

16. Pages 10, 11, and 12 of this document must initialed or signed as specified and returned (be sure to make a copy for your records before sending the original to us)to NTHEN by: 1). **MAIL** addressed to: NTHEN 709B West Rusk Street, #577, Rockwall, TX 75087; or by: 2). **FAX** to 972-722-7798-which is available 24/7/365; or by: 3). **SCANNING AND EMAILING** to: graduation@nthen.org.

Parent Initial Here: _____

NTHEN Initial Here: _____



For information about the
North Texas Home Educators Network,
please visit our web site at www.nthen.org
or email us at staff@nthen.org.

Telephone: 972-772-0082
Fax: 972-722-7798

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