

## **2019-2020 Graduation Speaker Application Process (application on reverse and online)**

*Class of 2020 Graduation: June 5 at 11:00am at Harbor High School*

Speaking opportunities:

- Commencement speech (2 in English, 1 in Spanish)
- Singing of the National Anthem
- Recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance

The class of 2020 will have three speeches at the graduation ceremony. One of the speeches will be in Spanish and two of the speeches in English. The Pledge of Allegiance and National Anthem will be in English. Students interested in representing and addressing the graduation should be able to discuss the value of a Harbor education and describe the Harbor student experience.

### **Eligibility**

Graduating students interested in delivering the commencement address must meet these criteria:

- Be eligible for graduation.
- Be in good attendance and behavior standing.
- Turn in the speaker application by March 20, 2019.
- Commit to attend and participate in the June 5, 2020 commencement ceremony, including the audition on April 23, 2020 and rehearsal on June 4, 2020.

### **Guidelines**

- The address should be between 2-4 minutes. This translates to approximately 400 – 650 words or 2 – 3 double-spaced, typed pages.
- Share how Harbor High School has been a transformative, powerful, important educational experience and how it develops critical thinking and globally-minded community members.
- Include examples from Harbor High such as coursework and extra-curricular involvement that connect to our vision statement: Where adults and students are respectful and own their learning. Harbor High graduates are college and career ready and equipped with the skills needed to become the best version of themselves.
- Avoid references that are unique to only your personal experience unless they provide insights into an extraordinary life lesson that applies to your listeners.
- Think about your listeners and general audience--there will be alumni, staff, parents and families, friends, school board members, and more. Consider the reason they are there to celebrate this occasion of the class of 2020's graduation when writing your speech.
- A variety of emotional content is always welcome in a speech.

### **Submission Process**

Eligible and interested students are required to submit an application--either online or on paper. This application must include an outline of commencement speech (bullet points are fine).

### **Selection Process**

A selection committee comprised of representatives from administration, teachers, extra-curricular activities, and staff of Harbor High will review applications and choose student speaker candidates to attend an in-person audition on April 23, 2020. At the audition, the student speaker candidate will present his/her draft speech before the selection committee.

The selection committee will consider the following when making their selection of student speakers:

- Message and theme
- Appeal to the graduation audience and common experiences of Harbor students
- Coherence and originality: Quality of speech content
- Length of presentation (appropriate word length)
- Extent to which the speech represents the mission and values of Harbor
- Presentation style and delivery – well prepared, engaging, body language
- Taking into account the above criterion the committee also seeks a diverse representation of Harbor students.

The selection committee will notify all students who auditioned no later than one week after the auditions are completed regarding the results of the auditions. **The selected speakers will work with a coach to refine their speech and delivery.**

**Important Dates** (double check hh.sccs.net calendar as dates are subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances)

- February 1 - Application opens
- March 20 - Application closes
- April 23 - Auditions
- June 4 - Student speaker rehearsal
- June 5 - Commencement ceremony

HHS Graduation Speaker Application

Submit to Ms. Runeare (truneare@sccs.net) or Kelly Paulsen (kpaulsen@sccs.net) in person or via email, or go to the HHS Site→ Students tab→ complete the Google Form!

I am applying for (check one)

- Pledge of Allegiance recitation
- National Anthem
- Graduation Speech, English
- Graduation Speech, Spanish

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Full name \_\_\_\_\_

Describe why you are interested in this role at graduation:

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If you are applying to be a speaker: What do you believe is the purpose of a graduation speech?

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Please provide a brief outline that includes the theme message and theme of your speech (you may attach to this application if you need more space):

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*Use reverse side if necessary.*

