Dear Graduate and Parents:

The administration and faculty of Alta High School are proud to present to the community the Class of 2021. This letter is to inform you of a few details concerning our commencement procedures. We ask that both the student and parent sit down for a few minutes together to review and plan for this important event.

It is very important that each student have his/her credits in order so that there are no last minute problems. If you have any questions concerning your student’s credits or graduation status, please call your counselor between 7:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. at 801-826-5620.

Please know that Alta High is doing everything we can to provide a memorable and excellent graduation. We ask for your continued patience and understanding as we navigate through Covid 19 requirements and restrictions. Know that there will be changes and adjustments made throughout the next four months with a promise from Alta High to communicate through the weekly newsletter, Skylerths, and our school website.

Items we know will not change:

1. Date, Time, and Location:
   Graduation Parade will be held on the Alta High School campus on Wednesday, May 26, 2021 starting at 10:00 a.m.

2. Caps and Gowns:
   Jostens will be handing out caps and gowns during both lunches on Thursday, April 22-in the South Commons. Caps and gowns not picked up on this date may be picked up from the Main Office if the cap and gown was ordered. If a cap and gown has not been ordered, students need to contact Jostens.com immediately or call 1-800-Jostens to make necessary arrangements. Each graduate’s gown must be returned at the end of the Alta High Graduation Parade before his/her diploma is issued.

3. Appropriate Dress – Stage walk; filming; picture with principal
   All graduation gowns are black. Wearing these gowns represents a symbol of unity for the graduating Class of 2021. Please make sure the gown is pressed. Graduates are to wear appropriate attire under their graduation gowns. Individual variations of this, i.e., flowers, leis, corsages, and other ornamentation are not acceptable during the ceremony, and will not be permitted within the building.

4. Hawk Medallion:
   The purpose of the Hawk Medallion is to encourage and challenge students to be involved in a wide variety of activities while attending Alta High School. The hope is to have students who are well rounded and participate in several activities. The focus is to reward engagement and not necessarily achievement. It is the student’s responsibility to pick up an application for the Hawk Medallion from the Counseling Center and to return the completed application to their counselor by Wednesday, March 31st. Students will be recognized at graduation and at an awards event at the end of the year.

5. Department Honor Cords:

   National Honor Society Stoles
   National Honor Society stoles will be worn by ACTIVE, QUALIFIED members; this includes 40 individual service hours, meeting attendance and required GPA. Alta High School will purchase the stoles for students to check out and wear for graduation. Each student MUST do their exit interview and stole check out on or before Friday, May 7th. There will be a $25 deposit required in the form of a check given to Mrs. Spears or Ms. Graff at the exit interview which will be given back to the student when the stole is returned. The stole will be returned with the student’s graduation gown before receiving their diploma.

   High Honor Cords (red)
   These will be worn by students with a cumulative 3.75 or better GPA as of the end of 3rd quarter.

   Graduation Recognition Cords
   We are continuing with the cord recognition program for Seniors. Seniors will be able to apply for the cords in various departments. Paper applications for each department will be available in the Career
Center (room 1940) from 8:00 am – 3:00 pm beginning on Monday, February 22, and also on the Alta High website ahs.canyonsdistrict.org/graduation-cords.html. The applications will need to be filled out completely and turned in to your respective department teachers. The due date for applications is Friday, March 26 by 3:00 pm. There will be absolutely no late applications accepted. Once applications have been reviewed, students will be notified of which cords they qualify for.

**Picking up cords**
Lists will be posted outside the Main Office on Monday, April 26 with the names of students who qualified for graduation recognition and honor cords. Cords can be picked up in the Main Office starting Monday, April 26. There will be no charge for the cords.

9. **Diplomas:**
Diplomas may be picked up at Alta High School immediately following your drive through the graduation parade and after your gown has been returned. Each student should make certain all financial obligations to the school have been cleared before graduation day.

10. **Behavior: Stage walk; filming; picture with principal**
Best behavior is expected by all seniors. Students will be removed from the ceremony for inappropriate dress or behavior. Parents, please encourage your students and guests to maintain the formal atmosphere of graduation.

11. **Graduation Speaker/Music:**
Tryouts for graduation speakers and musical selections will be on April 21st and April 28th after school. Speaker Tryouts will take place on Wednesday, April 21, beginning at 2:45, location TBD (contact Rique Ochoa). Musical Auditions will take place on Wednesday, April 28 at 2:30-3:00 in the choir room (contact Traci Raymond). Watch and listen for more information.

12. **Picture Taking:**
Because of the large number of graduates and guests, it is imperative that everyone attending remain in the areas designated for stage walk while your student has their name read, a professional photographer taking a color photograph of each graduate receiving his/her diploma cover, and the stage walk to a picture with the principal. There will be faculty there to help you with directions. Pictures will be available for purchase from Life Touch one week after graduation. All family/friends/gown pictures need to be taken BEFORE the GRADUATION PARADE ceremony. Taking pictures with gowns would be BEST after the stage walk in May.

13. **Graduation Parties:**
The school does not sponsor any after graduation parties.

**Items being planned but subject to change:**

1. “Formal” Graduation – stage walk; name read; picture with principal; filming (TBD – May 2021)
   a. In the Alta HS Performing Arts Center
   b. Virtual production will be available to view by all once all final edits are made
2. Filming of Graduation Speakers and Musical Performances (TBD – May 2021)

Your attention to these instructions will be appreciated. Through a cooperative effort, this year’s Alta High School Commencement will be a very special occasion. Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Alta High School
Administration and Graduation Committee