

IDAHO HOMESCHOOL GRADUATION



September, 2008

Dear 2009 Seniors and Parents:

Graduation 2009 will mark our 20th year. Our purpose is threefold: 1) to provide a traditional cap and gown ceremony that honors the older homeschooled graduate, 2) to allow younger homeschooled students to see the opportunities the future holds for them as they listen to the accomplishments of the graduating homeschooled students; 3) to give the public an opportunity to view the end result of homeschooling. Idaho Homeschool Graduation does not graduate students; that is the privilege of their parents. We only provide a ceremony.

We hold 6 graduation meetings (Sept. Oct. Jan. Mar. Apr. May). If you want to participate in the ceremony, it is essential that you attend these meetings. We strongly encourage a parent to attend each meeting along with their student. Throughout the year, you will be making orders for caps and gowns, diplomas, invitations, name cards and thank you cards. You will also receive information on the ceremony, the Junior/Senior Banquet, the yearbook, and other opportunities open to seniors. The meetings provide an opportunity for seniors to meet their fellow graduates and get better acquainted. **Meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month (except for November, December, and February) at 1 p.m. at Eagle Nazarene Church, 1001 W. State Street in Eagle, Idaho, 83616.** In case of an emergency, and you or your parent are unable to attend a meeting, it is your responsibility to email the committee. In the case of printed materials or ordered items, it will be your responsibility to pick up those items at one of the committee member's homes or make arrangements with another family to pick up those items.

All those who are associated with the Idaho Homeschool Graduation are volunteers. We have specific deadlines to ease the burden on these volunteers. Please pay close attention to all deadlines, and make sure your forms and orders are turned in on time. Because we work with so many families, we are not able to track each family down to remind them of deadlines. You will get email reminders, and reminders at each class meeting.

In this notebook is a fact sheet on the graduation fees. We try to keep all costs at a minimum while maintaining a high standard of quality. You will have until November 30th, 2008, to remit your total fee of \$175. After November 30th, a late fee of \$30.00 will be added.

Graduation 2009 will take place on Saturday, May 23, 2009, at 3:30 p.m. in the Brandt Center on the campus of Northwest Nazarene University. If you have any questions, please email us. We are looking forward to a great year!

Idaho Homeschool Graduation Committee

Mrs. Lee Ann Richter

Mrs. Neva Lee

Mrs. Kristi Vincent

Mrs. Cristy Bertsch

Website: www.idahohomeschoolgraduation

Email: contact@idahohomeschoolgraduation.org

P.O. Box 140864, Boise, ID 83714-0864

Idaho Homeschool Graduation Fees

Your graduation fee of \$175 includes the following:

1) **FAMILY FEE: \$85**

This covers the printing of the graduation invitations and programs, building rental, Speaker's honorarium, and any additional costs in operating the graduation ceremony. Each family is allotted 50 invitations. ***For an additional cost, you may purchase name cards, thank you notes and extra invitations.

2) **PROCESSING FEE: \$21**

This covers the costs of phone calls and mailings, including the paper, copying, envelopes, postage, etc. involved in communicating with seniors and their families.

3) **DIPLOMA: \$16**

Each graduate receives a 6" x 8" diploma, consisting of a padded royal blue cover with white satin corner ribbons on the inside, which hold the insert and celluloid cover. The insert is imprinted with the state seal of Idaho, the student's legal name and the graduation date. On the outside of the cover printed in gold ink are the words, "Diploma of Graduation" and the student's name. The diploma is a legal document, so the senior should have his or her full legal name printed on it. It is not accredited, since our homeschools are not accredited, and therefore some colleges do not recognize it. On job applications, etc. , it is honest to state that you have a high school diploma.

***We cannot give a diploma to anyone who does not participate in the Idaho Homeschool Graduation ceremony. We are a non-profit organization and may not "sell" diplomas.

4) **CAP, GOWN, TASSEL: \$28**

Caps and gowns are royal blue. The tassel is blue and white with a gold year emblem attached. Once you have purchased these, they are yours to keep. Caps and gowns cannot be ordered separately; they come as a unit.

5) **YEARBOOK: \$25**

Each senior will receive a yearbook. His/her individual page will be in color in his/her yearbook.

*****If your plans for graduation should change after you have paid your graduation fee and before January 1st, we will refund all but \$75 of your payment. After January 1st, we are unable to refund payments.**

Extra costs: The following are optional costs not included in the \$175 fee that you may want to plan for during your student's senior year.

- Senior pictures: \$25-\$600 depending on if you take them yourself, go to Sears, etc. or go to a professional studio.
- Year stickers: approximately \$.10 each; purchase from most studios for wallet pictures
- Honor cords: \$9.75 each (gold and white)
- Junior/Senior Banquet: March 20, 2009 - \$27.00 per person (due by the March class mtg)
- Reception: Costs will vary with personal preference
- Miscellaneous: Name cards, thank you notes, postage for invitations, film, etc.
- Extra Tassel: \$8.00

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Senior/Parent Graduation Meetings

1:00 p.m., First Tuesday of the Month

Location: Eagle Nazarene Church: 1001 West State Street, Eagle, Idaho 83616

- **September 2, 2008** Fill out and turn in signed application, signed code of conduct, pictures and fee payment, sign up on volunteer sheets.
- **October 7, 2008** Cap and gown measurements taken, vote on speaker, hymn and Bible verse. Sign up for student participation parts. Biography due.
- **January 6, 2009** Final cap and gown measurements, turn in yearbook page, order Invitations, name cards, and thank you cards, verify legal name for diploma, Honor cord paperwork and payment due. Meet with Mrs. Bertsch after meeting for yearbook staff.
- **March 3, 2009** Turn in speeches, biography additions, parent tributes and banquet reservations.
- **April 7, 2009** Distribute invitations, name cards, thank you cards, cap and gown. Begin practice of hymn.
- **May 5, 2009** Go over graduation day protocol and schedule. Practice lineup and hymn.

Deadline Dates

- September 2, 2008 Signed application and fee payment due.
- **September 30, 2008** Email suggestions for class speaker, hymn and Bible verse to: contact@idahohomeschoolgraduation.org
- **October 7, 2008** Cap and Gown measurements taken; vote on speaker, verse, and hymn, sign up for student participation. Biography due.
- **November 30, 2008** Graduation fees paid in full. Mail checks to: IHGC, P. O. Box 140864, Boise, ID 83714-0864
- **January 1, 2009** Final date to accept new graduates (space permitting)
- **January 6, 2009** Final cap and gown measurements; yearbook page due; order Invitations, name cards and thank you cards; verify legal name for diploma. Honor cord paperwork and payment due today.
- **March 3, 2009** Speeches, biographies, Junior/Senior Banquet reservations. Email tributes and speeches by today to Mrs. Richter at: contact@idahohomeschoolgraduation.org
- **April 8, 2009** Final additions or changes to biography due.

Other Important Dates

February 13-15, 2009 Snow Sneak
March 20, 2009 Junior/Senior Banquet
May 23, 2009 Graduation Day

CONDUCT AND DRESS CODES FOR THE GRADUATION CEREMONY

The Idaho Homeschool Graduation ceremony is a time to honor both students and their parents for their efforts and achievements during their years of homeschooling. The ceremony is held in a beautiful auditorium and is attended by hundreds of people. We would like to present our graduates in the best possible light to these people, some of whom are skeptical of homeschooling. We understand that each family has its own guidelines for acceptable behavior and dress, and it is not our purpose to agree or disagree with those. However, we have chosen to set what we feel are appropriate guidelines for the students who participate, in order to avoid any offense. **Not everyone will agree with these guidelines or see the necessity of them, but we ask that each student respect the guidelines and cheerfully comply with them.**

"Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others." Philipians 2:3-4

DRESS FOR THE CEREMONY:

Ladies: *A modest dress (preferably one that covers your knees when Sitting—the graduation robes have a split up the front)

*Dress shoes

*No nose, lip, eyebrow rings, or inappropriate jewelry

Gentlemen: *Dark dress slacks (no jeans)

*Dark dress shoes (no tennis shoes or boots)

*White shirt

*Tie

*No earrings anywhere or inappropriate jewelry

CONDUCT DURING THE CEREMONY:

*An attentive, respectful attitude while on stage

*Please do nothing that would draw undue attention to yourself

*No gum, cell phones, iPODS, or other electronic devices during the ceremony

*Refrain from visiting with your neighbor

***Your signatures indicate that you have **read** and **will** abide by the “Conduct and Dress Codes” for the graduation ceremony.

STUDENT’S SIGNATURE _____

PARENT’S SIGNATURE _____

DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 30TH!

Email your suggestions to: contact@idahohomeschoolgraduation.org

Suggestions for:

GRADUATION SPEAKER, CLASS HYMN, CLASS VERSE

1. Please write in your suggestion for the Adult graduation speaker. This person will be speaking for about 10 minutes during the ceremony. Please do not include the Governor of Idaho, President of the United States, etc. You do not have enough in your graduation budget to afford them!!! :)

2. Write in your suggestions for the class hymn. This must be a well known hymn since it will be sung by the whole audience (or the whole class) during the Ceremony. Last year's hymn was "Amazing Grace."

3. Write in your suggestion for the class verse (one verse or two short verses). This verse is printed on the invitations and the programs, and is read by a student during the ceremony. Please include the text version that you would like.

Please return your sheet as soon as possible. These will be voted on during the October meeting. You may also email your suggestions to:
contact@idahohomeschoolgraduation.org.

DEADLINE: OCTOBER 7, 2008

Bring to the October class meeting!!!!

VOLUNTEER SHEET FOR STUDENTS

Student's name _____ **Phone** _____
(everyone needs to hand in this sheet, even if you do not volunteer for anything. This way we know that we did not miss giving you the opportunity.)

GRADUATION COMMITTEES:

Check next to the committee you would like to serve on. We need your help!

_____ Yearbook

_____ Junior/Senior Banquet

_____ Snow Sneak

GRADUATION CEREMONY:

Please indicate which area you are interested in volunteering for. If you have more than one interest, please number them according to preference.

_____ Be a part of the prelude music. Please list instrument _____

_____ Leading the Pledge to the American Flag.

_____ Introducing the National Anthem—"The Star Spangled Banner" (you do not have to sing it—only introduce it)

_____ Leading the Class Hymn (you do not have to be the main vocalist, only introduce it and motion to class to stand)

_____ Reading the Class Verse

_____ Being a Student Speaker
(Speeches are submitted to a committee that chooses two speeches—speeches for consideration are due at the March meeting)

DEADLINE: OCTOBER 7, 2008

Bring to the October class meeting!!!!

PARENT VOLUNTEER SHEET

Parents: Please understand that the Idaho Homeschool Graduation Committee is made up of volunteer families who are still homeschooling their own children. We rely on the parents of the Senior/Graduates to help in a variety of areas throughout the year and on the actual graduation day itself. Without your help, some events/activities will not happen this year. Please prayerfully consider and sign up for the following areas:

Parent's name _____ **Phone** _____

_____ Junior/Senior Banquet Committee Chairperson: (We have the date and place. – There is a binder that previous Chairs have put together to guide you!) You will have a committee of both parents and students.

_____ Junior/Senior Banquet Parent Committee: Help is needed in all aspects—tickets, auditioning the students, etc.

_____ Snow Sneak Chairperson: (We have the date and the place.—There is a binder that previous Chairs have put together to guide you!) You will have a committee of both parents and students.

_____ Snow Sneak Parent Committee: Help is needed in all aspects—tickets, forms, planning activities, chaperones, etc.

_____ Cap and Gown Measurements: We need 2 moms in October and 1 mom in January to help with measurements and filling out forms. We need 1 mom in March or April to pass out cap/gown sets.

_____ Diplomas: We need 1 mom to pick up the diplomas from Mrs. Richter's home and double-check spelling of names on diplomas and diploma covers. Then, put the diplomas into the diploma covers and deliver them to the Brandt Center by 10 am on graduation day.

_____ Pizza Party: We need 3 parents to plan for the graduates' pizza party on the afternoon of graduation day. There is a binder from previous parents that will help guide you. The Idaho Homeschool Graduation gives you the money and you buy the pizza and supplies, set-up and clean—up. Last year, each parent said that it only took them about 3 hours each (including the actual pizza party!).

OVER PLEASE!!!!
PARENT VOLUNTEER SHEET CONTINUED!!!!

Parent's name _____ **Phone** _____

Graduation Day

- _____ Assist Mrs. Bertsch with pictures (line-up, keeping students in order).
You WILL NOT have to take pictures! Approximately 10 am to 11:30 am.
- _____ Cap and Gown ladies: We need 4 moms willing to help hang up caps and gowns in the morning after pictures and then pass out the caps and gowns in the afternoon. Morning: 10:30 am to 11:30 am. Afternoon: 1:45 p to 2:45 p.
- _____ Dad help! We need 3 dads willing to come during graduation day, sit around and read a book! This is to have a guy around just in case we have an unusual situation that might need a man's perspective!
Times: 10 am to 12 noon
12 noon to 2 pm
2 pm to 3:30 pm
- _____ Miscellaneous help during the year and on graduation day—Use me where you need me!

THANK YOU! The Idaho Homeschool Graduation cannot do graduation without the kind help and support of ALL of the parents of the Graduates! We so appreciate your willingness to help and serve!

HONOR CORD REQUIREMENTS

In order to receive honor cords, the Student must show documentation of the following:

GOLD CORD:

- ACT—score of 25 or higher**
- SAT—score of 1800 or higher (includes, Math, English and writing)**
- Who's Who Award (Academic) any year in high school (ITED—80th percentile or higher)**

- National Merit Commended**
- National Merit Semi-finalist**
- National Merit Finalist Scholar**

WHITE CORD:

- ICHE Summa Cum Laude Scholar—requirement (90th percentile or higher on ITED test given by ICHE)**

All documentation (copies only) are to be received, along with a check for \$9.75 for EACH cord, by January 15th. Cords are ordered on February 1st. Accommodations will be made for Seniors taking the ITED test in March for those who may be nominated for a Who's Who award or an ICHE Summa Cum Laude.

Get your documentation in as soon as possible to:

**Bring to the January meeting or email your questions to:
contact@idahohomeschoolgraduation.org**

PARENTS' TRIBUTE FOR THE CEREMONY

The parents' tribute will be read as each individual student walks up to the table to receive his or her diploma. To get you thinking about what you would like to say consider what makes your child unique and special. (There is a sample tribute from a past graduation on the back of this sheet.)

The tribute can be no longer than 80 words. Please check your word count after typing up your tribute and if it is more than 80 words, take out whatever is least important until you are at 80 (highlight your tribute, not including name, click on Tools/Word Count, and check to see the number of words.)

Please type it up as a Word document in the following format:

<p>John Robert Deschamps</p> <p>(John Robert Day'shaw')</p> <p>John has brought joy to our family and to those who know him. He has been persistent in his education and has shown a love of learning.....</p>

Legal name-use font
size 36, Times New
Roman, (not italic)
bold, centered

Phonetic pronunciation-
same font, text, bold,
centered

Tribute-- Use font size
28, not bold. Leave
a 1 ½ " margin on all
sides.

Email **as an attachment** to:
[contact@idahohomeschool
graduation.org](mailto:contact@idahohomeschoolgraduation.org)

Put "Tribute—(your name)
in the subject line. This must

be received by Tuesday,
March 3, 2009.

JUNIOR SENIOR BANQUET

The Junior/Senior Banquet is a very special event held in the spring for homeschooled juniors, seniors, and their parents. It is a semi-formal to formal function providing an opportunity for parents and students to honor each other as they are approaching the end of their homeschooling experience. This year's banquet will be Friday, March 20, 2009, at the Owyhee Hotel in Boise, Idaho. Tickets will be \$27.00 per person. A professional photographer will be there to take pictures (which you can order and are an extra fee), a delicious meal will be served, and the program will showcase the talents of the students in the senior and junior classes.

We encourage students to come with their parents to the banquet. Adult siblings, grandparents, alumni and other adults who have played a significant role in the lives of the students are also invited to attend. Please do not bring younger siblings. We do not consider this a dating event even where students pair off, but rather it is a time for students to enjoy the friendships of all their classmates, as brothers and sisters in Christ.

Please be careful when choosing your attire for the evening. Girls' dresses should be modest and inoffensive to others, a reflection of your love for the Lord and His people. It can be difficult to find modest formal wear for girls, but we encourage you to make that a top priority. If you have questions about your dress, we will be glad to discuss it with you. Guys should dress in suits, or dress slacks and nice shirt and tie.

The program at the banquet will depend on you, the students. Be thinking about sharing your talents, and we will include as many students as possible. There will be auditions to ensure the appropriateness of the performances, so please call the coordinator and discuss the nature of your contribution, and she will schedule an audition for you.

You will also have the opportunity of serving on the committee that plans the banquet and coordinates the entire evening. It is a great way to get to know your classmates better.

This annual event has become the highlight of the year for many seniors and juniors, and we hope that it will be an evening to remember for you, too.

THINGS TO REMEMBER...

IDAHO CURFEW LAW

Ada County: Under 18—Midnight

Canyon County:

Under 16—10 p.m.

16 and 17 year olds—11 p.m. Sun.-Thurs.; Midnight Fri & Sat.

Please keep the curfew in mind when planning evening events. Encourage the students to “do that which is right in the sight of the Lord.” It has been difficult for some to leave the event when everyone else is still there. We as parents are assuming that every event is **PARENT CHAPERONED!** If it is not parent chaperoned, it is **YOUR** responsibility to let the participants know.

MOTORIST LIABILITY

Transportation to and from outings is the parents’ responsibility. The phone list is for car pooling, if it is within the keeping of the parent’s rules. “Abstaining from the appearance of evil,” has been our motto.

Yes, your car insurance covers you for unforeseen accidents, but you can be sued for more than what your insurance covers. Please, prayerfully consider whose life you want your student to be responsible for.

September 2, 2008

THINGS TO COMPLETE TODAY!!!

1. Complete application. Remember to have both Senior and parent sign **application. Fill application out completely!**
2. Read and sign Code of Conduct. Remember to have both Senior and **parent sign Code of Conduct.**
3. Payment of \$75.00 due. (You may pay the entire fee of \$175 if you wish.)
2nd payment of \$50.00 is due at the October meeting.
3rd and final payment is due by November 30, 2008.
Otherwise, a \$30.00 late fee is applied.
4. After you have handed in your Application, Code of Conduct, 2 wallet sized photos, a baby picture and payment, receive your **graduation notebook and "Refrigerator Reminder!"**
5. Computer: Type in your diploma name, phone number, student's **Email address and parent's email address.**
6. Students: Sign up for committees (Optional)
--Snow Sneak
--Junior/Senior Banquet
--Yearbook
7. Parents: Sign up to volunteer: (Not optional!)
--Junior/Senior Banquet Coordinator (we will not be having a Junior/Senior Banquet if we do not have a parent volunteer!)
--Snow Sneak Coordinator (we will not be having a Snow Sneak if we do not have a parent volunteer!)
--Yearbook Assistant to Mrs. Bertsch
--Cap and Gown Assistant for October
--Diploma Assistant
--Other volunteer positions
8. Sign up to host a Junior/Senior party! (Optional)
9. **Fill out Suggestions for Class Adult Speaker, Class Verse and Class Hymn (see your notebook) and hand in. (Due September 30, 2008 if you need more time for suggestions)**