

TPA Graduation Ceremony 2009

**Saturday, May 9, 2009 • 1:00 PM • Central Christian Church
2900 N. Rock Road, Wichita, KS 67226**

Much of the preparation for TPA Graduation 2009 will be accomplished via the several committees most of which will be established after the meeting on January 23, 2009. **It is mandatory that each family participate on at least one of these committees.** But, there are a number of items that families need to arrange on their own. Your graduate's senior year will zip by before you realize it, and thus, we encourage each family to get started on the items below right away. We want to give you some information that will help get you started in some of the decisions and arrangements that will be coming up.

Graduation Announcements

There are a number of places where families can order graduation announcements, including Hallmark Cards, Josten's, Party City and most bridal shops. Printers (such as Copy Max, Kinko's and Quik Print) also offer announcements. Each of these offers a differing array of sizes, papers, lettering and prices, so you will want to check around before ordering. You can also create your own announcements. Create a master and take it to a printer to select paper and have them professionally printed, or use a laser printer and print them yourself. **Many sample announcements** are available for you to look at in the scrapbooks from previous graduations.

Announcements should be mailed out 4-6 weeks before graduation so that friends and family have adequate time to plan their schedules.

- One announcement will be mailed to the Graduation Committee for display in the 2009 Homeschool Graduation Scrapbook. (That information will be available at our next meeting on January 23rd.)

Senior Pictures

Taking senior pictures is a long-standing tradition. Because any sort of professional photography can run into quite a bit of money, we encourage families to check around, inquire about options and prices, and most importantly, start the process early. Families are free to utilize any photographer they choose.

- We need each participating graduate to provide us with two wallet-size (2½ x 3½) photos in portrait orientation (head and shoulders view), one for the program and one for the 2009 Senior Scrapbook. *We can only use wallet-size photos!*
- You will also need to submit a **Photographer's Copyright Consent Form** (form provided) along with your photos, indicating either that you have the photographer's permission to use the photo *or* that this is a personal photo. (Otherwise, we could be sued for copying them in the program.)

Diplomas

If you wish to present your graduate with an official diploma as he/she walks across the stage, you need to either create one yourself or purchase one. Diplomas can be easily created on a home computer. Diplomas and covers can also be ordered or purchased from several establishments, including Josten's and the Home School Legal Defense Association (540-338-5600, www.hslda.org). Previously, Jostens has created a custom homeschool diploma and cover for us and we will order those as a group for anyone who would like one. Hand calligraphy is also available for a small fee.

Cap and Gown

All participants in the TPA graduation must wear a cap and gown. These can be borrowed or purchased, either individually or through our group ordering with Josten's. At the January meeting, details of all costs, colors, ordering information, etc. will be provided.

Group Reception

TPA will help coordinate an optional reception in Central Court immediately following the graduation ceremony, with an area for the graduate's display and to greet friends and family. Cost for the reception will be \$40.00, or participants will receive a \$15.00 discount if your family provides one person to serve as hostess for the reception.

Costs

Participation Fee (mandatory)—this helps to cover the costs for the use of the facility for the meetings, rehearsals, and ceremony, as well as printing costs, student video production, scrapbooks, etc. This fee should be around \$125.00, depending on the number of participants and other variables. The exact fee will be provided at the January meeting.

Other costs for optional items such as caps and gowns, honor cords, diplomas, ceremony photos, DVDs, reception fees, etc. have ranged from \$0 to about \$150 in addition to the participation fee. (This would not include your own costs for senior photos and announcements.)

Ceremony Program Assembly Day

Mandatory for at least one representative from each family to participate in assembling the programs (a graduate is OK). April 29, 2009, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in Hospitality Suite, Central Christian Church.

Questions?

If you have questions about any of the above, please contact Warren or Karen Ryan at 687-4254 or by e-mail (warrenryan@sbcglobal.net or karensryan@sbcglobal.net). Updates to graduation information and dates will be posted at the TPA website at www.teachingparents.org.