

Dear Mapleton Senior:

Mapleton's commencement ceremony is intended to be a *community* celebration of the current *class* of graduates. The accomplishments of individuals also merit celebration, however graduating seniors and their guests must refrain from celebrating in a way that infringes on the celebration of other graduates, or the class.

Students who participate in Mapleton's commencement ceremony must wear the graduation cap and gown issued through the school district's vendor (or an outside vendor if it matches the required cap and gown). Only district-sanctioned cords and sashes may be worn over the gown – nothing else.

Mapleton students in the class of 2023 will be allowed to decorate the tops of their mortarboards (caps) for the following purposes (or similar and approved purposes):

- To thank a family member (parent, sibling, grandparent, etc.), teacher, or friend.
- To recognize the college or university they will be attending.
- To display their graduation year.
- To recognize the branch of the military they will be joining.
- To display their home state or country's flag.
- To express a goal, emotion, or personal characteristic.
- To identify as part of a group, team, or activity.
- To display an intended college major.
- To highlight a formative experience.
- To express an inspirational message.

Cap decorating is optional, and it is perfectly fine for students to NOT decorate their caps.

Students choosing to decorate their caps are strongly encouraged to trace their caps onto cardboard and decorate the cardboard. If a mistake is made, students can start over with a new piece of cardboard. Mapleton Public Schools **cannot** furnish new caps if caps are destroyed during the decoration process.

All mortarboard decoration must follow these rules:

- No advertisement, symbols, abbreviations, initials, words, slogans, patches, or pictures that:
 - Refer to drugs or controlled substances, tobacco, alcohol, weapons, or anything of a sexual nature.
 - Denote an affiliation with gangs or that advocate drug use, violence, illegal activity, or disruptive behavior.
 - Are obscene, profane, vulgar, or lewd.
 - Express animosity toward or against a person or a group of people.
 - Threaten the safety or welfare of any person.

- Only the flat, top area of the mortarboard may be decorated.
 - There may be nothing hanging down from any of the sides of the cap or protruding beyond the edges.
 - Decorations must be flat on the surface of the cap. Three-dimensional items are prohibited.
- Decorations must not make noise (bells, whistles, etc.)

NOTE: This is not an exhaustive list and any adornment or message deemed inappropriate or determined to pose a safety risk or distraction will not be permitted. School directors will have the authority to interpret these rules and to disallow anything that they consider inappropriate for the commencement ceremony.

Congratulations!