



Douglas Anderson School of the Arts

WHERE ARTS & ACADEMICS MEET IN EXCELLENCE

May 6, 2010

Jackie Cornelius

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF FINE ARTS
FOR DUVAL COUNTY and
PRINCIPAL of DA

Lianna Knight

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Melanie Hammer

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Lashantah Holliday

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

A DUVAL COUNTY
PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL

National Model School of Excellence
INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR
LEADERSHIP EDUCATION

National GOLD Grammy Signature School
GRAMMY FOUNDATION
Tenth year

High School Jazz Competition Winner, 2008
THE ESSENTIALLY DUKE ELLINGTON

FLORIDA A+ SCHOOL
For seven years

Best Academic High Schools, 2009
NEWSWEEK
Eighth year

Top 100 Public High Schools, 2009
U.S. NEWS and WORLD REPORTS

Florida Music Demonstration School
2007-2009

Exemplary School Award 2007
INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF SCHOOLS FOR
THE ADVANCEMENT OF ARTS EDUCATION

Community Partnership Award 2007
INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF SCHOOLS FOR
THE ADVANCEMENT OF ARTS EDUCATION

Arts Innovation Award, 2007
INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF SCHOOLS FOR
THE ADVANCEMENT OF ARTS EDUCATION

National Leader School
U.S. DEPT. OF EDUCATION



Dear Parent of a Senior:

Depending on the successful completion of all course work, your senior will very soon reach a significant point in his/her life--the completion of twelve years of education. This important occasion is commemorated by Commencement, a serious, **formal** program that tastefully recognizes our seniors for having reached this point in their lives.

I ask you, the parent of a Douglas Anderson graduating senior, to help us maintain the quality, dignity, and cultured traditions of our commencement ceremonies. Our commencements are for the students, not the audience. Our commencements are artistic, and unlike other schools' ceremonies, there is no yelling or clapping until the end. Our commencements symbolize the last artistic expression shared by our seniors after four years of intensive arts learning. We ask all parents and guests in the audience to join us in making sure this last experience of your artistic student is all that it traditionally has been—a ceremony of joy, beauty, and young artistic expression.

Although you have already received, via your senior and parent meetings, earlier communications concerning the graduation activities, we want to emphasize once more the importance of a dignified atmosphere for our **Commencement at 7 p.m. on June 9 in the Moran Theatre** at the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts. We are proud that our seniors want to carry on the Douglas Anderson tradition at this formal ceremony.

During meetings with seniors our faculty has compared our commencement to a formal program presented by seniors and faculty. We have stressed to our seniors just what **their** role is, and we have been very pleased with their positive response. We sincerely believe that they, as a united group, are eager to present themselves in a stately and dignified manner to you, their family, and their friends.

We request that every parent and guest participate in accordance with our formal theme. We ask that a dignified atmosphere prevail from the processional through the recessional. That can easily be accomplished if you, along with each of your guests, remain **absolutely silent** during the ceremony and **respond with applause only at the appropriate times**. The name of each graduating senior will be called, and he/she will be presented with a diploma. ***The climax of the commencement ceremony--the announcing of the graduates' names--is to be observed with polite silence from every person in the audience.*** You will see that complete silence is

impressive as each senior's name resounds throughout the theatre. I have noted in the past that when the silence has been broken by a call or applause from the audience, the senior is embarrassed. Let's **honor them all equally** with our respectful silence. At the conclusion of this segment of the ceremony, I will ask for a thunderous round of applause for all our graduates.

We request that you take the responsibility for giving this information to the guests you invite as you provide each guest with a ticket. **All guests, regardless of age, are required to have a ticket.** Please refer to the attached notice for ticket information and the procedure for leaving tickets for guests to pick up at the *Will Call* table in the theatre lobby.

I know many of you are eager to take pictures of your seniors in their caps and gowns, which will be available Thursday, June 3, during hours noted on the enclosed Early Dismissal form. **Please take pictures before** arriving at the T-U Center for the Performing Arts. Graduates must **arrive at the Terry Lobby of the T-U Center on June 9 by 6:15 p.m. Immediately after** the ceremony they will proceed directly to the robing area to **return** their gowns and receive their diplomas before meeting family outside. Therefore, *Lunch At The Fountain* on **June 4** will be a wonderful photograph opportunity (order form enclosed).

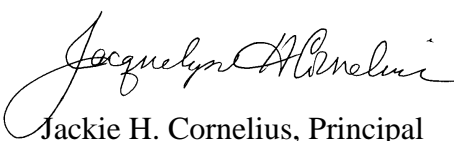
A professional photographer will take a picture of each graduate as he/she receives his/her diploma. (You will receive a proof of and ordering information for the "handshake" picture directly from the photographer approximately one week after the ceremony.) It is the policy of the Performing Arts Center that **all** aisles remain clear at **all** times. Therefore, **we ask that you NOT leave your seat during the ceremony to take pictures or for any other reason that is not a true emergency**, as this is distracting, disturbing to other guests, and detracts from the dignity of the ceremony. The ceremony will also be professionally videotaped. For your convenience the enclosed video order form may be used to reserve a copy. Parents who wish to make their own video may do so in the **designated balcony area only**. Please note, however, that **no** power supply will be available.

If you or any of your guests will require special accommodations, such as handicap accessibility, please contact Ms. Kessel at kesselm@duvalschools.org.

The enclosed map includes important **parking information**. Please allow adequate time to travel and park in order to arrive on time. The lobby doors to the Moran Theatre will open at 6:30 p.m. We will begin the ceremony promptly at 7 p.m. In compliance with the Moran **theatre's policy, no seat saving** will be permitted after 6:45 p.m. **Late arrivals will be seated** by ushers **in the balcony only**. Additional theatre policies are included in the enclosed "reminder" sheet.

Please unite with our seniors, our faculty, and the other parents in our School of the Arts family as we present *COMMENCEMENT 2010*, an elegant culmination of your senior's school years. **Let me emphasize that our seniors want to be as proud of you as you are of them.** Please read the enclosed "reminder" sheet carefully. Your understanding of this information and your cooperation are vital. We appreciate your help and consideration as we plan this very important evening for our graduates.

Sincerely,



Jackie H. Cornelius, Principal

mk

Enclosures: Early Dismissal permission form, Reminders, *Lunch at the Fountain* Order Form