

EVENT INFORMATION
PACKET

FOR THE

**North Texas
Home Educators' Network**

2010

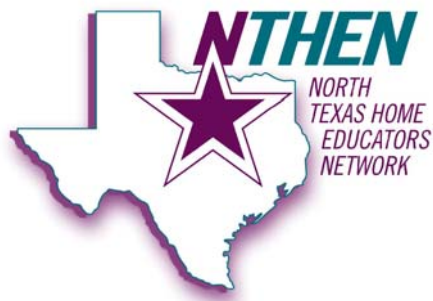
**Graduation Exercises
&
Commencement Ceremonies**

SCHEDULED FOR

Saturday, May 29, 2010

AT THE

**Arapaho Road Baptist Church
Garland, Texas**



PLANNING MEETING MEMORANDIUM

TO: All Prospective Homeschool 2010 Graduate Families

FROM: Kathie Lunsford, NTHEN Graduation Coordinator

SUBJECT: 2010 Graduation Exercises and Commencement Ceremonies
Planning Meeting

This planning meeting to discuss the 18th Annual NTHEN sponsored Graduation Exercises and Commencement Ceremonies will take place on Monday, January 18, 2010, at 11:00AM. Location of this meeting will be Arapaho Road Baptist Church and the purpose of this meeting is to allow parents and graduating seniors alike to become informed and to begin to prepare for an evening to celebrate twelve years or more of academic achievements. The actual 2010 Graduation Exercises and Commencement Ceremonies will be held on May 29, 2010 at 2:00PM in the sanctuary of Arapaho Road Baptist Church in Garland, Texas.

At the Planning Meeting on January 18, 2010, we will thoroughly discuss all of the important matters listed below. Therefore, it is strongly recommended that careful attention is paid and that detailed notes be taken at this meeting!

- ❑ **The location for the 2010 Graduation Exercises and Commencement Ceremonies is Arapaho Road Baptist Church, 2256 Arapaho Road, Garland, Texas 75044. Please do not contact the church with any questions or concerns. All questions should be directed to NTHEN at (214) 495-9600 or to graduation@nthen.org.**
- ❑ "Rules and regulations"
- ❑ Details of the actual conferring of diplomas.
- ❑ The reception that follows the Graduation Exercises.
 - Times for preparation
 - Decorations and refreshments

Your graduate's recognition table

- Teardown and cleanup
- ❑ Ordering diplomas and graduation announcements/invitations
- ❑ Senior Pictures
- ❑ Expenses
- ❑ Questions and Answers

As a participant in our Graduation Exercises and Commencement Ceremonies, parents and graduates understand and agree to the stipulations contained in the GRADUATION GUIDELINES section found on Pages 10-11 of this document.

Caps and Gowns

Order forms for caps and gowns will be available at this meeting. Colors will be purple and white and the cap tassel will have a "2010" emblem on it. The caps and gowns are purchased items, the cost of which is included in the graduation fee; therefore, they are yours to keep. Be sure to know your graduate's measurements in order to complete the form. Measurements needed are: Height (in shoes) and Weight. **DOUBLE CHECK MEASUREMENTS!** Full figure gowns are available at an additional cost of \$10.00. Please note that, with regard to graduation caps, ONE SIZE FITS ALL!!

Costs to Participate

The graduation fee is \$160.00 for each student. This fee includes the purchase of cap and gown, a professional DVD of the graduation ceremony, printing of graduation programs, facilities usage and clean-up, church decorations, and all reception costs including refreshment items at the reception, plus napkins, cups, plates, and floor length purple tablecloths (these are nice cloth tablecloths).

Additional and/or optional items with additional cost include:

- ❖ Customized Diploma - \$40;
- ❖ Invitations/Announcements range in cost between \$50 - \$100 depending on style and quantity.
- ❖ Senior Pictures
- ❖ Senior Ring
- ❖ New suit/dress and shoes for the Graduation Exercises and Commencement Ceremonies
- ❖ Private reception for your graduate

As we approach this very special time, I look forward to helping you in every way possible so that your students' graduation is meaningful, memorable and fulfilling. You may reach me by telephone at 214-495-9600, by fax at 972-722-7798, or by emailing graduation@nthen.org.

Grace and Peace,

Kathie Lunsford

Graduation Coordinator

This Is Your Invitation!

You are cordially invited to participate in the 18th Annual North Texas Home Educators' Network Homeschool Graduation Exercises & Commencement Ceremonies to be held on May 29, 2010, at Arapaho Road Baptist Church, 2256 Arapaho Road, in Garland, Texas 75044. There is no event that compares with our Homeschool graduation and the memorable experience it provides for both the graduate and their families.

If you have a high school student that will be graduating during the 2009-2010 academic year, and would like to know more about NTHEN's Graduation Exercises and Commencement Ceremonies, please contact us at your earliest opportunity. We look forward to serving you during this most exciting time for you and your graduate.

The North Texas Home Educators' Network has provided a full program for graduating Homeschool seniors since 1993. The key to an outstanding and memorable event is detailed planning, and parental & student involvement!

On January 18, 2010, an informational, but mandatory, meeting will be held at Arapaho Road Baptist Church (see above for address) for all those interested in participating in NTHEN's 2010 Graduation Exercises and Commencement Ceremonies. At that time, parents and students will begin planning activities for their senior year. Activities range from barbecues, cookouts, and swimming parties, to sporting activities, nights at the movies, and more!

All of these activities provide opportunity for participating seniors to get to know one another and enjoy graduating with a Senior Class of 2010. Indeed, many become fast friends! This is such an important part of the Homeschooling experience and NTHEN encourages this type of fun, fellowship and activities.

The graduation ceremony itself is very meaningful and often emotional (bring a box of tissues). Students participate from the very beginning of the ceremonies to the conclusion, and parents actually confer the high school diplomas personally to their student(s). The years of teaching and training come to an appropriate graduation (finish) and commencement (beginning) in a way unlike anything you've experienced previously!

Each ceremony includes a commencement speaker providing a message of encouragement and inspiration to the graduate, family members and all who attend.

After the graduation ceremony, a grand reception for all the graduates and their families is provided. Refreshments will be abundant and everyone enjoys the festivities and excitement surrounding this event.

Remember, all of the important meetings related to graduation will be held at the Arapaho Road Baptist Church (see above for address).

For additional information about graduation, please contact us at Graduation@NTHEN.org or by telephone at (214) 495-9600.

HOME EDUCATED HIGH SCHOOL
GRADUATING CLASS PICTURE



One of many Graduating Classes
sponsored by
North Texas Home Educators' Network

NTHEN Statement of Faith

The purpose of this Statement of Faith is to set forth the Judeo Christian beliefs the Officers and Directors of The North Texas Home Educators' Network Board practice in their personal and professional lives.

First and foremost, we proclaim The Holy Bible to be the inspired Word of God, perfect as originally written under the direct inspiration of The Holy Spirit, and the complete revelation of God's will for salvation through faith through His Son, Jesus Christ.

(Exodus 24:4; Deuteronomy 4:1-2; II Timothy 3:15-16; Hebrews 4:12; II Peter 1:20-21)

Secondly, we testify that there is one and only one true God, Creator of all things, Who has existed from all eternity, in three Persons: God The Father, God The Son (Jesus Christ), and God The Holy Spirit. The eternal triune God reveals Himself to us with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being. All three Beings are perfect, omnipotent, omnipresent, omniscient and have equal power, and all three Beings are deserving of praise, honor and worship.

(Genesis 1-3; I Chronicles 29:10; John 1:1-3; I Corinthians 8:6; Philippians 2:6-8; I Timothy 1:17; Hebrews 9:14; I John 5)

Thirdly, we believe in the deity of Jesus Christ, His miraculous conception by The Holy Spirit, His virgin birth, His sinless life, His substitutionary physical death on a cross, His Burial, His bodily resurrection on the third day, His ascension into Heaven to the right hand of God The Father, and we believe in His imminent return.

(Psalm 110:1; Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 27-28:10; John 16:28; Acts 1:11)

In addition, we confess that all men are in violation of God's righteous requirements and therefore, all men are subject to His wrath and just condemnation, which is an earthly death followed by eternal punishment in the lake of fire.

(Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23; Revelation 20:15)

However, God The Father, in His infinite wisdom and loving grace and mercy, provides The Way through His Son Jesus Christ. Salvation is offered as a free gift to all who will admit sin, believe on The Lord, and confess with their lips that Jesus is The Savior. This gift of salvation is an individual decision, based on faith, completely autonomous from any and all "good works." Salvation is obtained through the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ.

(John 3:16; 14: 6; Romans 4:24-5:2; I Corinthians 15:1-11; Ephesians 2:8-10; I John 1:8-10)

TEXAS LAW (Education Code)

Alternative Statutes Allowing for Home Schools:

1) Texas Education Code Annotated 21.033 (a)(1). *“Any child in attendance upon a private or parochial school which shall include in its course a study of good citizenship” is exempt from the requirements of compulsory attendance.* The class action suit, *Leeper v. Arlington Independent School District, No. 17-88761-85 Tarrant County 17th Judicial Ct. Apr. 13, 1987*, resulted in a trial level decision in favor of home schooling. The court ruled that:

a) Home schools can legally operate as private schools in Texas;

b) Article 7, section 2 of the Texas Constitution only authorizes the legislature to establish and maintain public education, not private or parochial education;

c) Home schools must be conducted in a *bona fide* manner, using a written curriculum consisting of reading, spelling, grammar, math and a course in good citizenship. No other requirements apply.

d) The court ruled that the interpretation of the law cannot be left to each criminal prosecution. *“If arbitrary and discriminatory enforcement is to be prevented, laws must provide explicit standards for those who apply them.”*

e) This judgment does not preclude the Texas Education Agency, the Commissioner of Education, or the State Board of Education from suggesting to the public school attendance officers lawful methods, including but not limited to **inquiry** concerning curricula and standardized test scores, in order to ascertain if there is compliance with the declaration contained in this judgment.

f) On November 27, 1991, the Court of Appeals of Texas Completely affirmed the case (Leeper). The Court stated that the Texas Education Agency “deprived the Homeschool parents of equal protection under the law” since their private schools in the home were unfairly discriminated against “on the sole basis of location in the home,” rather than outside the home.

g) On June 15, 1994, the Texas Supreme Court unanimously affirmed the Court of Appeals decision in TEA, et al. V. Leeper, et al.

2) In 1989, the Texas legislature exempted private and parochial schools from new requirements for schools, and in the process, confirmed that the term “private school” includes home schools. *“Nothing in the act applies to students in attendance upon a private or parochial school, which includes home schools, in accordance with 21.033, Education Code.*

Teacher Qualifications: None

Standardized Tests: None. The court in *Leeper* specifically stated that the school district could not regulate standardized testing.

“What high school level courses need to be successfully completed by my home-educated student in preparation for college entrance?”

[SUGGESTED HIGH SCHOOL COURSE OUTLINE FOR HOME SCHOOL GRADUATES SEEKING COLLEGE ADMISSION]

<u>Subject/Course</u>	<u>Generally Acceptable Minimum Requirements</u>	<u>Strongly Recommended</u>
Language Arts (Grammar, Composition, English, Literature, Writing)	4 Units/Credits	4 Units/Credits
Mathematics (Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, Trigonometry, Calculus, Statistics)	3 Units/Credits	4 Units/Credits
Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Anatomy, Physiology)	3 Units/Credits	4 Units/Credits
Social Studies (History, Government, Economics, Geography)	3 Units/Credits	4 Units/Credits
Foreign Language (Spanish, German, French, Russian, Sign Language)	2 Units/Credits (Same Language)	3 Units/Credits (Same Language)
Fine Arts (Bible, Drama, Art, Theatre, Drawing, Speech)	1/2 Unit/Credit	1 Unit/Credit
Health	1/2 Unit/Credit	1/2 Unit/Credit
Physical Education	1 1/2 Units/Credits	1½ Units/Credits
Computer Science	1 Unit/Credit	2 Units/Credits
General Education (Philosophy, Humanities)	1 1/2 Units/Credits	2 Units/Credits

In addition, most universities PREFER students that have achieved a high SAT score (1800 and higher) or a high ACT score (29 and higher). Your student should strive for these results. Note, however, that many colleges/universities *will accept* students with SAT or ACT scores lower than those shown above. Additionally, entrance examinations may be required and other prerequisites may apply to each specific college or university. This information is offered merely as a guide for use by Homeschooled high school students. To determine specific requirements for admission to the institution(s) of higher learning in which your student has interest, you should obtain an undergraduate catalog available from the Office of Admissions of those institutions and refer to admissions information contained therein.

Graduation Fee

The \$160.00 Graduation Fee per student includes ...*

Item or Service

- Purple Cap & Gown* with 2010Tassel
- Graduation Napkins for Reception
- Graduation Cakes
- Party Nuts
- Punch
- Service Ware
- Cups & Plates
- Tablecloths and Reception Decorations
- Church Facility
- Church Decorations
- Graduation Programs
- Speaker
- Special Music
- Pianist and/or Organist and/or Harpist
- Professional DVD Videography & Duplication

** Full figure gowns are an additional \$10.00*

**Total value of these services if contracted
separately: \$640.00!**

GRADUATION GUIDELINES

In order to conduct Graduation Exercises and Commencement Ceremonies that will truly honor all graduating students, the following guidelines are required by NTHEN.

- Respect for the facilities.
 - Please, no "borrowing" of Church property (scissors, tape, etc.).
 - Do not use Church telephones. Also, on the day of Graduation and on the several meeting dates outlined herein, the event coordinators telephone number will be 214-478-7770.
 - Do not attach anything to any wall.
 - No electricity is available.
 - Please do not bring children while you are decorating your graduate's table.
 - On Graduation Day, children must be supervised at all times. They will not be allowed to "explore" the facilities or behave in an improper manner.
 - Please promptly remove any crying or disturbing child from the Ceremonies in respect to others in attendance.
- **ALL TABLE DECORATIONS MUST BE SET UP AND COMPLETED BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 9:00 AM AND 12:00 NOON on Saturday May 29, 2010** (not before and not after as the facilities are in use). Decorations must be removed immediately after the reception. **All tables are 60" round and will include purple tablecloths provided by NTHEN. THE TABLE DECORATION IS A REQUIREMENT FOR PARTICIPATION IN NTHEN'S GRADUATION AND COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES.**

Parent initials here:

- Graduate guidelines:
 - Every graduate agrees to wear the NTHEN designated cap, gown, and tassel during the Graduation Exercises and Commencement Ceremonies.
 - Academic achievement designations (braid, sashes, pins, etc.) may NOT be worn DURING THE CEREMONY OR WHEN THE GROUP GRADUATION PICTURE IS TAKEN.
 - **The date, time, and location of the rehearsal are Monday, April 19, 2010 at 11:00 AM at Arapaho Road Baptist Church. Plan on a 2-hour rehearsal meeting.**
 - **REHEARSAL ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY! Please make plans EARLY to be at this meeting.**
 - A "walk-through" Rehearsal will be held **the day of Graduation** in the Sanctuary at 12:30PM. **THIS IS ALSO A MANDATORY MEETING FOR GRADUATES.**

- Graduation will start sharply at 2:00PM!
- All graduates should wear nice dress shoes and nice dresses/pants. **No jeans or flip-flops.**
- Graduates should sit erect during the ceremony.
- No writing on caps or gowns and no chewing gum.
- Every graduate family agrees to decorate a 60" round table at the reception in honor of the graduate.
- Parent and Graduates guidelines:
 - All cell telephones and pagers must be turned off or on "silent" or "vibrate" during the ceremony. No exceptions!
 - **DO NOT BE LATE!** Make arrangements to be on time for all graduation functions. Lateness by just one graduate creates an undue burden on the entire ceremony, the event coordinating staff, and the other participating graduates.
 - Be prepared to confer your student's diploma. Practice beforehand what you wish to say so that you will be more comfortable during your actual presentation.
 - The time limit for conferring your graduate's diploma will be adhered to strictly!
 - The recommended dress code for parents (or others) conferring a diploma is "Sunday best".
 - Please inform all guests of these guidelines. Also, please encourage them to NOT BE LATE AND TO REMAIN SEATED DURING THE CEREMONY AS THEIR MOVEMENT DURING THE CEREMONY IS VERY DISRUPTIVE TO OTHERS AND DIMINISHES THE CONTENT QUALITY OF YOUR GRADUATION DVD.

Parent Signature and Date

Graduate Signature and Date

Graduate Information Form

Graduate candidate's FULL Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Height: _____ Ft. _____ In. Birthdate: ____/____/____

Male: _____ Female: _____ (Check one)

Home Telephone #: (____) _____ Work Telephone #: (____) _____

Graduate candidate's E-Mail Address: _____

Graduate candidate's Cell Telephone #: (____) _____

Parent's/Guardian's Names: _____

Parent's/Guardian's E-Mail address: _____

Parent's/Guardian's Cell Telephone #'s: _____

Name of the local homeschool support group(s) your family has been a member of?

By the date of graduation, will your graduating student have homeschooled the entire senior year? Yes: _____ No: _____ (Check one)

Total number of years your graduating student has been homeschooled: _____

Graduation Fee: (\$160.00*) Date fee paid: ____/____/____

- Full figure gowns are \$10.00 extra

Check #: _____ Cash: _____ Other: _____

"I understand that all initial graduates will be scheduled for the graduation ceremony on Saturday, May 29, 2010 at 2:00 p.m. Only after that date fills will the possibility of a second graduation ceremony be considered.

Parent initial here: _____



For information about the
North Texas Home Educators' Network,
please contact us at:
709B West Rusk Avenue, #577
Rockwall, TX 75087
214-495-9600
Graduation@NTHEN.org
www.NTHEN.org
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