

H.E.A.R.T GRADUATION POLICY

H.E.A.R.T. does not validate your senior's diploma. This is the responsibility of the parent(s).

- Application & Fee
 - General sign-up will start at the H.E.A.R.T. Expo. In the event that there is not the H.E.A.R.T. Expo, general sign-up will be opened on August 6. on the website.
 - Parents must have homeschooled potential graduate during his/her junior year and current senior year.
 - Closing date will be October 15th at midnight. The website sign-up will be closed. First planning meeting will be at the end of October.
 - The total fee for graduation will be due at the time of sign-up through Pay-pal. This fee will be determined and set by the chairpersons based on the previous budget and current prices.
 - Fee covers the cost of a navy gown and cap with a navy and silver tassel and the charm for current year; venue; standard diploma, decorations, small reception, programs, thank you cards and offerings.
 - All other fees will be the responsibility of the senior and/or parent.
- There will be no maximum number of graduates.
- July 1st the H.E.A.R.T. board will take "submissions" for those who want to volunteer as the chairperson and co-chairperson. Two people, who have seniors graduating, should fill these positions.
- Any disputes will be decided by the board members of H.E.A.R.T.
- Each family will be asked to sign-up for a committee. These committees are what make graduation personal and successful. Participation on these committees is not optional. Our fees are based on family participation.
 - Chairperson, Co-Chairperson
 - Treasurer
 - Venue seeker and securer
 - Sound of voice over's/compile finished videos
 - Reception after ceremony
 - Decorations (banner, pew ribbons, flowers, etc.)
 - Invitations and name cards
 - Cap, Gown, Collar, Diploma
 - Graduation Program
 - Actual Program (MC, pianist, etc.)
 - Rehearsal Refreshments/Dinner (depending on location)
 - Photography
 - Recording of Ceremony
 - Music/ Class Video and after ceremony
 - Thank you cards and offerings
 - Publicity
 - Opening Prayer
 - Invocation
 - Pledge of Allegiance

- **Cap/Gown: navy/silver**
 - Try on your cap and gown as soon as they arrive to be sure they fit properly. (The gown should be midway between your knees and ankles)
 - Prayerfully consider what you will wear under your gown.
 - Wear a lightweight fabric as the room does get warm.
 - Wear a casual dress shoe. You want to be comfortable and able to walk naturally in the shoes you choose.
 - Be sure to iron or steam the creases out of your gown before arriving at graduation.
 - The cap is to be worn level on the top of head—not tipped to the front, back, or to either side.
 - Gentlemen should remove their caps for prayers and the National Anthem.
 - The tassel is initially worn on the right side of the cap and then moved to the left when instructed during the graduation ceremony.
 - No personalization or embellishments of cap and gown with exceptions of honor cords and collars.

- **Venue**
 - H.E.A.R.T. will contribute \$300.00 for a single ceremony. In order to promote continuity and a repeating relationship with our local churches, it is suggested that the following churches be approached first. These churches have been gracious to us in the past. Past committees have used their equipment and video processing is easier when you do not have to learn the new equipment each time.
 - Securing the venue is critical. We have suggested the third week in May be our optimal date. Reasons being: college graduations are usually the week before along with Mother's Day. For those students taking dual credit at Lone Star, their classes are completed by this date. If it is moved to the end of the month, Memorial Day became a factor.
 - 1st suggested choice: 1st Assembly of God in Humble - if the church commits early enough.
 - 2nd suggested choice: a venue large enough to accommodate approximately 40 guests per graduate.

- **Videos**
 - Length of the video will be determined by the chairperson based on the number of seniors.
 - All lyrics to music will be approved by the chairperson and co-chairperson. Any disputes will be resolved by the H.E.A.R.T. board.
 - Pictures will be approved by the chairperson and co-chairperson. Any disputes will be resolved by the H.E.A.R.T. board.
 - All videos will have allowed voiceovers by seniors or parents. No live microphones.

- **Parent Certification: H.E.A.R.T. does not validate any senior's diplomas. Currently in Texas, homeschooled students are legally considered private school students. There is no statutory definition of a "homeschool," or "home-schooled student." Establishing a legal definition for these programs opens the door to government regulation. Texas State Law Requirements Regarding Home Schooling:**
 - The instruction must be bona fide (i.e. not a sham)
 - The curriculum must be a visual form (e.g. books, workbooks, video monitor.)
 - The curriculum must include the five basic subjects: reading, spelling, grammar, mathematics, and good citizenship.

H.E.A.R.T. DOES NOT VALIDATE DIPLOMAS OR ACCREDIT ANY HOME-SCHOOL OR PRIVATE SCHOOL FAMILIES.

