

President's Order of Events **2021**

Academic Processional

[When all students have processed in and “Pomp and Circumstance” stops playing, step up to the podium and say:]

“Good evening and welcome to the commencement ceremony for the Red Land High School Class of 2021. I ask that you please take a moment to silence all cell phones.”

[Pause for 30 seconds to allow people to check their phones]

“Please rise, and gentlemen remove your caps, for the playing of our National Anthem and the Pledge of Allegiance.”

[When the National Anthem is finished, face the flag, and lead the pledge.]

“I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”

[stay standing and wait for the entire JROTC color guard to leave the field...
when they are at the edge of the track, you say:]

“Please be seated.”

Welcome (Prologue) by Class President

“Good evening parents, family members, friends, faculty, administrators, and most of all, my fellow classmates-the class of 2021. Welcome to Red Land High School’s commencement ceremony! My name is Bethy Belai, your Senior Class President and I am extremely honored to be guiding today’s ceremony. Resilience. If I just ended my speech there, I think I would have been satisfied. The word Resilience is so profound, it can stand by itself and there is no. better. word. to describe hour class. Resilience is toughness and the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties. I really don’t want to list all_ of the events that have happened in the past year globally or in hour personal lives because we have heard enough. We have lived and are still living in beyond surreal and unprecedented times. I feel for the students who will have to learn about these times in history class. To the future students, I wish you good luck learning all of this and just to warn you, you will have one whole textbook about 2020 and 2021 alone. It will be filled with all of the Tiktok trends that really carried us through these times! Despite this, each of us have managed and persevered to get to this unforgettable day-hour high school graduation. We, made it. And for hour class in particular, saying “We made it” means so much more. We

endured, we endured, and we endured. Emphasis on endured. Because family always finds a way and we truly did find a way! I commend each of you for your strength in these legendary times."

"It is now my pleasure to introduce the district administration seated on the platform. Dr. Todd B. Stoltz, Superintendent of the West Shore School District."

[Pause for applause]

"And, I ask that the rest of the administrative team of the district please stand to be recognized."

[Pause for applause]

"I would also like to recognize the school board seated on the platform. Mr. Frank J. Kambic, School Board President."

[Pause for applause]

"Additionally, I invite the rest of the West Shore School Board to rise and be recognized."

[Pause for applause]

"Thank you all for attending this evening and for your involvement in our ceremony."

"We are honored that many of our teachers are here with us this evening in academic dress representing their institutions of higher learning and academic fields of study. On behalf of the senior class, I would like to thank our teachers for their inspiration, encouragement, and support. I ask them to stand at this time to be recognized, and I invite you all to join the class in a round of applause."

[Pause for applause]

Introductions of Student Speakers by Class President

Our first speaker, will be our Salutatorian Garrett Hodges. Garrett is attending the University of Alabama Honors College for computer engineering, with ambitions for an MBA or Masters of Science in computer engineering. Garrett enjoys working out and hanging out with friends in his free time, which he admits he doesn't have much of, and loves relaxing with his dogs, Bella and Raider.

The class Valedictorian is Cole Wagner. After graduation, Cole will attend the University of Georgia to major in Statistics and play baseball. Cole relaxes with a good book, such as *Mind Gym* by Gary Mack, or listening to a Hardcore History podcast. He also enjoys grilling, and admits that rib-eye steaks are his favorite. At this time, please welcome our class speakers.

Speeches by Garrett Hodges and Cole Wagner

Epilogue by Class President

"Thank you, Garrett and Cole. We all have many memories from the past 13 years for which we will always be thankful and carry with us. As you look back, on your senior year especially, I hope you acknowledge all we have overcome and just how strong we are. Hearing the reality that change is inevitable and we don't know exactly what the future holds may sound scary. However, let this past year be a testimony and enough proof of the unique gift in us-hour resilience. Hour adaptability, hour grit, and hour mental toughness was shown entirely. What can shake the class of 2021 after this? Mr. G has taught me that if I want to see if an event likely occurred by chance or not, I would complete a hypothesis test. If the p-value is less than the significance level, then I can conclude the event is not likely due to random chance. Sorry Mr. G, but in hour case, I don't need to calculate the p-value to know it wasn't just by chance that these events occurred during hour senior year. There was a reason why hour senior year wasn't the year we expected it to be. To prove hour strength, hour gift of resilience, and how family always finds a way, no matter what. I know this gift of resilience will continue to dwell in us, keep us grounded, and be an encouragement and light to others. Knowing this gift we have, I encourage each of you to fearlessly embark on your journeys because the future is so bright for us and we will bring change and a positive impact on this world. I wish each of you the best of luck in your future endeavors. Thank you for the honor of speaking to you today."

"Commencement awards will now be presented by Mr. Aaron Walter, Senior Guidance Counselor."

"Mrs. Melissa Herbert will now present the Class of 2021."

[Class presented to the Board]

"Dr. Todd B. Stoltz, Superintendent of the West Shore School District, will now accept the Class of 2021."

[Superintendent accepts class with a speech]

"Diplomas will now be awarded by Mrs. Melissa Herbert, Principal; Mrs. Shelly McGowan, Mrs. Jennifer Post, and Mzz. Jen Taylor, Assistant Principals; and Mrs. Heather Wolfe and Mrs. Taylor Wiggins, Senior Class Deans."

[Diplomas awarded]

"Will the class members please rise and join me in the turning of the tassels."

[Tassels turned...Note: tassels go from right to left]

"Congratulations, Class of 2021!"

"Will the Class of 2021 and our guests please rise and sing the Red Land Alma Mater, led by the Senior Chamber Singers."

[Alma Mater played by the band...wait for short intro before singing...
step back from podium so mic doesn't pick you up!]

"We thank you for joining us this evening. We ask the audience to remain in the stands while the Class of 2021 exits together for the last time during the Academic Recessional."

[Exit with class]