

MPE GRADUATION CONTRACT

MPE Graduation Ceremony Purpose Statement

Graduation symbolizes a “trophy presentation” where the individual trophies are, in essence, the graduates themselves. It is to His glory that these “trophies” are laid at the feet of the King of Kings, Jesus Christ. Thus, this ceremony is to focus, not on the graduates or their families, but on bringing honor and glory to our Savior.

The ceremony is to be considered a praise service to God, designed as a public display of the gratitude of the graduates and their parents for being given the privilege of home schooling. It is also to demonstrate the thankfulness of the graduates for their parents, as well as other relatives and friends, who were used by God to shape the lives and character of those graduates for future service to the Master.

Special care is to be given in the design of the ceremony to avoid any self-centered and inappropriate focus upon any individual graduate or parent by way of disrespectful attire, comments, gestures, noises, or any other activity that distracts from the God-centered intent of this event.

Graduation Procedures and Guidelines for MPE High School Graduation

MPE’s Board of Directors will appoint the Board Graduation Committee to consist of an MPE Board member and the Graduation Coordinator to oversee the annual graduation of MPE seniors. The Committee will be functionally responsible for facilities, appeals, liaison with the graduation ceremony treasurer, ceremony (screening of speeches and pictures, colors, music for processional/recessional, etc.), policy confirmation/documentation, program, budget and recruiting of the Graduation Coordinator.

A graduation committee of the students and their parents will be formed, and the parents are responsible for the implementation and final outcome of the decisions made by the Graduation Committee or delegated to student graduation committee. Because the graduation is representative of the homeschool community, it is required that parents attend two designated meetings (currently September and October) to discuss conduct, behavior, and responsibilities of the students before and during the ceremony. All unresolved problems are to be presented to the MPE Board Graduation Committee.

MPE is a Christian organization and all graduation ceremonies shall reflect those views as stated in the MPE by-laws. No other religious text will be read, and no other gods prayed to during the MPE graduation ceremony. The MPE Statement of Faith will be applied to all areas including music and motto. Each graduate and parent accept that those choices may not reflect every personal doctrine they hold.

MPE will sponsor as many graduations as the committee decides is necessary as long as there is a minimum of five graduates participating in each ceremony. MPE will assist in defraying the following costs of each graduation: facility, reception, and printed programs. The board will consider assisting with other costs that might present a hardship to the families of the graduates. All ceremonies will be coordinated through the same committee.

Requirements to Graduate

The family of each student wishing to graduate must have been a member of MPE since Sept. 30 of the previous school year (junior year). This deadline shall be published in the MPE newsletter in June, August, September and October. Membership must go through May 31 of the year of graduation and must be *paid in full* by the October meeting regardless of expiration date. Seniors (or juniors considering early graduation) must declare their intentions to participate in the MPE graduation ceremony by the October meeting date (currently the second Monday of October).

If a family does not meet the membership requirements, seniors may still be allowed to participate in the MPE graduation if MPE is notified by the October meeting of their desire to graduate and meet one of the following conditions:

1. The family has recently moved to the Kansas City area, joins MPE, and submits to MPE a letter from the homeschool organization in its previous state of residence verifying that it has been a member of that organization for the two previous years.
2. The family has been a member of MPE continuously in the past, except for time spent on the mission field and resumed its MPE membership upon return to the Kansas City area.
3. The family pays two years of past MPE dues, applies for membership, agrees to abide by the Christian emphasis of the graduation, and verifies that it has been homeschooling for the past two years by submitting to MPE one of the following:
 - A. Proof of HSLDA membership for the past two years
 - B. A transcript for its graduating senior
 - C. Three letters of reference verifying that it has been homeschooling for the past two years

To be eligible to graduate a student must be homeschooled exclusively, or part of a dual enrollment program, homeschooled plus an educational co-op, private virtual school or college. Those who would be ineligible to participate in the MPE graduation would be those enrolled in public school, including online public schools (virtual charter schools), for more than 50% of their classes anytime during their final two years of high school.

It is expected (but not required) that, in the spirit of Christian charity, the members of the junior class will assist each year with the MPE graduation ceremonies and receptions.

A graduating senior or a parent is expected to attend *any and all* meetings set by the committee unless excused by the Graduation Coordinator. If the senior is unavailable, a parent is required to represent the graduate at committee meetings and participate in their stead for any committee assignments. Failure to participate by either the graduate or their representing parent will result in the following: First incident = Warning; Second incident = Withhold Diploma; Third incident = Not allowed to participate in the ceremony. An appeal can be presented to the MPE Board Graduation Chair. Parents are responsible to oversee their graduate's committee work and personal submissions to ensure it is done accurately and timely.

Graduation Fee (separate from MPE membership) is \$140 and due in full at the specified meeting (currently October). Graduation fee received after the specified meeting date is \$280. If a student decides not to graduate with MPE and notifies MPE before or on the November meeting date, fees will not be refunded if they have already been included in payments made for any portion of a ceremony; thus, a partial refund may occur. No refunds after November meeting date.

If a student does not qualify initially to participate in the MPE graduation ceremony, appeals can be made in either written or verbal form to the MPE Board of Directors. The Board alone reserves the right to determine whether a student under special circumstances may or may not participate. No appeals will be accepted after the October meeting.

Dress Code

One of the stated purposes in the MPE Graduation Ceremony Purpose Statement is: “Special care is to be given in the design of the ceremony *to avoid any self-centered and inappropriate focus upon any individual graduate or parent* by way of disrespectful attire...” In keeping with this policy, the MPE Board has established the following dress code guidelines for the rehearsal and ceremony.

- Young Men Graduation Rehearsal. Shirt with collar, shoes. No shorts, T-shirts, shirts with a logo on. Jeans or slacks allowed; no holes or tears. No body piercing displays or body modifications of any kind, including earrings/expanders. Hair neat and natural color.
- Young Men Graduation Ceremony. The same guidelines as rehearsal for body piercings/modifications and hair except as follows: Dress pants, dress shirt with collar and tie, dress shoes required. No denim.
- Young Ladies Graduation Rehearsal. Jeans or slacks allowed; no holes or tears. No shorts. Any dresses or skirts are required at least knee-length or longer. No slits above the knee. No t-shirts, shirts with a logo on. No strapless, spaghetti-strap, halter-top or see-through, no low-cut backs on blouses or dresses. No cleavage or exposed midriff (including when arms are raised or bending over). No undergarments exposed. No body piercing displays or body modification other than pierced ears (no expanders). Hair neat and natural color.
- Young Ladies Graduation Ceremony. Dress, skirt, dress slacks, or dress jumper is required. No denim; no shorts. All Rehearsal garment length and modesty standards are required. Also, the same guidelines as Rehearsal for body piercings/body modification and hair.

If a prospective graduate does not wish to abide by the MPE Graduation Dress Code, they are welcome to not participate. The ceremony is a privilege, not a requirement or a right.

We have read the entirety of the MPE Graduation Contract and agree to abide by it. Parent agrees to hold their student accountable to the Contract.

Student Printed Name

Parent Printed Name

Student Signature/Date

Parent Signature/Date

My son and/or daughter will meet the state requirements to graduate from high school and is eligible to participate in the MPE graduation ceremony.

Parent Signature