



**CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
NEWS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release

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CCSD celebrates graduation week by highlighting unique ceremonies and traditions

Media invited to events that range from cute to nostalgic

LAS VEGAS – Graduation ceremonies for Clark County School District (CCSD) students begin tomorrow, June 5, and will continue through June 13. While all will feature hardworking students receiving diplomas, not all will be alike. Unique and inspiring traditions are thriving in Clark County's schools. Traditions on display during the next few days include a salute to graduates from 50 years ago and members of the class of 2027 participating in the class of 2013 ceremonies. Highlights include:

John S. Park Edison Elementary School – hosts two pre-k "graduation ceremonies." Children will watch a slide show from the year, receive certificates of completion and read essays written by students in the class. Students will also sing a special song, and will be addressed by the principal. **There will be two ceremonies. The morning pre-k student ceremony will take place at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, June 4, followed by a ceremony for the afternoon pre-k students beginning at 2:30 p.m.**

C.T. Sewell Elementary School – In an effort to ensure students are *Ready by Exit* and recognize the importance of graduating, C.T. Sewell will recognize its fifth grade students with an end-of-year graduation ceremony. Families are invited to attend the event, which will feature keynote speaker, Caroline Ciocca from Super Pawn. Last year, Board of Trustee, Deanna Wright, spoke to students about the importance of staying in school and focusing on high school graduation. During the ceremony, students will sing inspiring songs, student speeches reflecting on the end of the school year will be highlighted, each student will receive a C.T. Sewell graduation diploma, and every student will shake hands with his/her teacher and the principal, Dr. Carrie Buck. **This event will take place on Wednesday, June 5, at 9 a.m.**

Ruby Thomas Elementary School – Each year the school presents a Fifth Grade Promotion Ceremony on the last day of school. Dignitaries from the District, City of Las Vegas, banks, military, police, courts, and other occupations, speak with students and share their information with them. The students dress up and sing to the families and guests. Additionally, for tomorrow's event, Boyz II Men recorded a special video congratulating this year's graduating class. **The festivities begin at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, June 5.**

Basic High School – Each year, kindergarten students from Robert Taylor Elementary School

introduce the graduating class from Basic High School. The kindergarten students will also introduce themselves as the graduation class of 2027. **This will take place at the Orleans Arena on Friday, June 7, beginning at 9 a.m.**

Las Vegas High School – takes a unique approach to its graduation ceremony. In addition to honoring the graduates of the class of 2013, the school also honors its “Golden Grads,” who graduated 50 years ago. The Golden Grads wear gold caps and gowns and sit among the graduating seniors. The Golden Grads in attendance then have their names read aloud and during the celebration, a slide show of their school days and golden memories will be shown. **The graduation ceremony will begin at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, June 7, at the school’s football stadium.**

West Prep – Kindergarten students will open up the graduation ceremony and introduce the fifth grade graduating class at the Smith Center. Graduation has been held at the Smith Center for the past two years. Part of the visual is the kindergarten and fifth grade students wearing caps and gowns in West Prep’s colors for the ceremony. **The graduation will take place on Monday, June 10, at noon.**

Western High School – has two traditions for its graduation. The first is the Ivy Chain. It is a color guard composed of eleventh grade female students with a grade point average of 3.5 or higher. These students hold chains of ivy that line the aisle at the Orleans Arena. The second tradition is the unveiling of the senior mosaic at graduation. The mosaic is then displayed in the hallways. Every graduating class at Western has created a mosaic that currently adorns the hallways. **These events take place on Thursday, June 13, at 9 a.m. at the Orleans Arena.**

Every graduation season provides for an opportunity for beginning a new tradition. Although CCSD has schools in a number of outlying communities, Sandy Valley is CCSD’s most rural school, located on the Nevada – California border. Beginning this year, two of the graduating seniors from Sandy Valley High School will receive the Dewayne D. Jones scholarship to help them further their education, thus starting a new tradition.

For more information about the Clark County School District, visit ccsd.net.

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