

## Administrative Procedure 353

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### GRADUATION CEREMONIES

#### Background

The completion of a high school program is a significant achievement and is cause for celebration. The celebration can also be a rite of passage from adolescence into adulthood with its attendant statement of rights, responsibilities and relationships.

#### Procedure

1. The Principal shall ensure that there will be a formal graduation celebration for students who have successfully completed their high school program.
2. The graduation celebration shall ensure that the following considerations are met. The graduation celebration:
  - 2.1 Must include a Christian liturgical component;
  - 2.2 Should include public exercises that profile the senior class as a group as well as recognize students as individuals;
  - 2.3 Must respect the dignity of each person as a child of God;
  - 2.4 Must reflect the values of the Catholic Christian tradition; and
  - 2.5 Must ensure respect for the values identified in the Mission statement of the Division.
3. In order for a student to participate in the graduation ceremony, that student must be eligible to complete his/her educational program and the school's expectations regarding Religious Studies.
4. The Principal shall have the authority to permit a student to participate in the graduation ceremony if deemed to be in the best interests of the student, taking into consideration the effort and ability of the student and the overall philosophy of these procedures.
5. The Board and all division staff will not recognize nor be part of activities associated with graduation that deal with the distribution and consumption of alcohol.