



## HENRY M. JACKSON HIGH SCHOOL

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**SECHIN TOWER**  
*Principal*

**ERIK HEINZ**  
*Assistant Principal*

**MADELINE MASON**  
*Assistant Principal*

**JANEL THOMPSON**  
*Assistant Principal*

Historically, graduating seniors have had the opportunity to individualize their regalia by wearing cords and stoles that recognize academic achievement and cultural significance. Caps and tassels have been considered a symbol of graduating class unity. High school principals and the regional superintendents have now agreed to allow symbols on the graduation cap that represent cultural significance for individual students. The rationale is that it is an extension of a pre-existing allowance by state law for students to wear traditional tribal regalia or objects of Native American cultural significance within their cap and gown ensemble. The qualifiers for what is allowed to be worn at the ceremony are listed below, including what has been allowed in the past.

Commencements are a special time for all of our students and families. We continue to work with students to help us balance the individual and collective spirit of these celebrations.

### Graduation regalia

What has been allowed historically:

- Gear provided by the school (cap, gown, school stole, tassel)
- Academic cords
- School provided & approved club cords
- Tribal regalia on caps and gowns per RCW 28A.600.500
- School stoles worn on top; additional stoles acceptable, e.g.,
  - Cultural stoles
  - Sno-Isle National Technical Honor Society stole and tassel
  - Orca program stole
- Gown adornments of cultural significance with prior approval from principal or principal designee provided they:
  - are school appropriate
  - reflect a culture that the student identifies with
  - do not change or replace the school issued items
  - are not potentially disruptive to the ceremony or detrimental to the safety and welfare of other students

### (New allowance) Qualifiers for graduation caps will include:

- Only objects of cultural significance may be worn on top of graduation caps and approved by the principal or principal designee
- Cultural symbols will be allowed; **text** will **not** be allowed
- No appropriation of other cultures
- No noise or sound from decorations
- No lights or battery-operated items
- Any symbols must lay flat without exceeding the edges of the cap
- Height extension to cap may not exceed ½ inch
- School tassel must be visible and movable

If a student would like to wear a decorated cap, please follow the following steps:

1. Bring the decorated cap to gradation practice on Friday, June 13
2. Find your assigned seat and keep your cap with you
3. During practice staff will have clear bags labeled with student names to collect the decorated caps
4. ALL decorated caps will go through admin for approval, and will be handed to students after they have been checked in by security on Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup>

Students will not be able to turn in decorated caps after 11:00 a.m. on Friday, June 13<sup>th</sup>.

If a student brings a decorated cap to graduation on Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup> it will be collected and they will be handed an undecorated green cap, the decorated cap can be picked up from the main office on Tuesday, June 18<sup>th</sup> during school office hours.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sechin Tower". The signature is stylized with a large, prominent "S" and "T".

Sechin Tower  
Principal