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3 INSTRUCTION

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5 Participation in Commencement Exercises

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7 Statement of Policy

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9 A student’s right to participate in a commencement exercise of the graduating class at Park High School  
10 is an honor. As such, participation in this ceremony is reserved for those members of the graduating class  
11 who have completed all state and local requirements for graduation before the date of the ceremony.  
12 Students who complete their requirements after the date of commencement exercises will receive their  
13 diplomas at that time.

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15 Organization and Content of Commencement Exercises

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17 The school administration may invite graduating students to participate in high school graduation  
18 exercises according to academic class standing or class officer status. Any student who, because of  
19 academic class standing, is requested to participate may choose to decline the invitation.

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21 The school administrators will review presentations and specific content, and may advise participants  
22 about appropriate language for the audience and occasion. Students selected to participate may choose to  
23 deliver an address, poem, reading, song, musical presentation, or any other pronouncement of their  
24 choosing.

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26 The printed program for a commencement exercise will include the following paragraphs:

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28 *Any presentation by participants of graduation exercises is the private expression*  
29 *of an individual participant and does not necessarily reflect any official position of the*  
30 *District, its Board, administration, or employees, nor does it necessarily indicate the*  
31 *views of any other graduates.*

32 *The Board recognizes that at graduation time and throughout the course of the*  
33 *educational process, there will be instances when religious values, religious practices,*  
34 *and religious persons will have some interaction with the public schools and students.*  
35 *The Board, while not endorsing any religion, recognizes the rights of individuals to have*  
36 *the freedom to express their individual political, social, or religious views.*

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40 Legal Reference: Art. II, Sec. 5, Montana Constitution - Freedom of religion  
41 Art. X, Sec. 7, Montana Constitution - Nondiscrimination in education  
42 § 20-5-201(3), MCA Duties and Sanctions  
43 § 20-1-308, MCA Religious instruction released time program  
44 § 20-7-112, MCA Sectarian publications prohibited and prayer permitted  
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46 Policy History:

47 Adopted on:

48 Reviewed on:

49 Revised on: February 12, 2013