AliYah Academy

"Train up your child in the way that he should go..."
Proverb 22:6

Formal Graduation Ceremony Handbook

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*Additional Handbook

This handbook provides all details for families considering participation in the **AliYah Academy Graduation Ceremony**. Please read carefully, as it outlines expectations, deadlines, fees, and event logistics.

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1. Celebrating Your Graduate

Come celebrate in style with us!

AliYah Academy offers a **traditional cap and gown commencement ceremony** held in Knoxville, Tennessee. This ceremony is **optional** and is designed to honor and celebrate your student's achievement alongside family, mentors, and peers.

Please note: Your student's **diploma and official transcripts are already included** with your Senior membership. The ceremony is an additional opportunity to celebrate together as a community.

The ceremony is typically held on the **first or second Thursday in June**.

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2. What's Included

The Graduation Ceremony package includes:

- Elegant venue in Knoxville, Tennessee
- Professional photographer capturing the event
- Keynote speaker
- Student speaker (audition-based)
- Student talent performances (audition-based)
- **Five (5) guest seats** per graduate
    - Additional seats available for purchase ($10 each)

The ceremony takes place in the beautiful ballroom of **The Grande Event Center**, creating a memorable and meaningful experience for your family.

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3. **Registration & Fees**

Total Package Cost

$350 (No Refunds)

Due to upfront venue, staffing, and production costs, **no refunds** can be issued for any reason. Please ensure your decision before submitting payment.

How to Register

1. Log in to your parent account
2. Go to **Forms & Resources**
3. Scroll to the **Official Requests** section
4. Select **Graduation Ceremony Registration**

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4. **Event Times**

When: Thursday, June 11, 2026
Location: The Grande Event Center
5441 Clinton Hwy
Knoxville, TN 37912

Schedule

- Parent and Student Check-in* & student board setup: **3:45 PM**
- Rehearsal: **4:00 PM** *(Parents and Students both need to be here so you understand where to go and stand)*
- Guests start Check-in*: **5:00 PM** *(if guests arrive early, they will have to wait in the lobby)*
- Parents and Guest take their seats: **5:30 PM**
- Fellowship, photography & refreshments until: **8:30 PM**

*See **8. Guest Tickets & Seating** for check-in information.

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5. **Student Speaker & Talent Auditions**

Auditions for **Student Speaker** and **Student Talent** are held during the **last week of April**.

AliYah Academy Homeschool Resource Center
929 W. 1st N. St.
Morristown, TN 37814

🎥 Video call auditions are also available.

This is an opportunity for students to:

- Encourage and inspire their peers
- Publicly acknowledge parents and mentors

Families must **register for the Graduation Ceremony first**, then call to schedule an audition time.

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6. **Parent & Student Responsibilities**

To participate in the Graduation Ceremony, families must complete the following:

Required

- **Cap & Gown**
    - Order a **Shiny Royal Blue** cap and gown to be shipped to your home *(we have a link on our website)*
    - Tassel color is your choice
    - Caps are allowed to be decorated if desired *(no foul language is permitted, keep it clean)*
    - Sashes, Stoles, and Cords are optional and may be worn in the color of your choice *(AliYah Academy does not designate a valedictorian)*
    - Orders should be placed promptly to allow for shipping

Gowns from previous graduates may only be reused if they are **Shiny Royal Blue** for event uniformity.

- **Graduation Slideshow Photos**
    - **Three (3) student photos**
    - Suggested photos: early childhood, middle years, high school (or all senior photos)
    - Please ensure high-quality images suitable for large-screen projection
    - Upload under **Files** by **April 15**
- **Student Bio**
    - 2–3 sentences written in **third person**
    - Highlight achievements, interests, passions, or future goals
    - These are read aloud by the announcer as the parent(s) presents the diploma to the Graduate and has their photo taken on stage
    - Upload under **Files** in the **text box** by **April 15**
- **Dress Code**
    - This is a formal event
    - **Graduates** should wear **business or dress attire** under the gown with **black dress shoes**
    - **Parent(s)** should also wear **business or dress attire**, as parents will be on stage and photographed while presenting the diploma

Optional

- Create a **Student Display Board** for the entrance lobby, and let us know by **May 20** if you will be bringing one *(each display board will have a **3-foot** section of a table to be displayed on, and most students include photos and stories on their board that are meaningful to them)*
- Prepare a **speech** and audition for **Student Speaker** *(Audition are held April 27-30 by appointment)*
- Prepare a **song/performance** and audition for **Student Talent** *(Audition are held April 27-30 by appointment)*

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7. **Graduation Requirements***

Participation in the Graduation Ceremony does **not automatically confirm graduation eligibility**.

Parents are responsible for ensuring that their student has met all **AliYah Academy graduation requirements**, including completion of all required core credits and submission of final grades by the stated deadlines.

Please carefully review the **High School Handbook** and confirm that no core credits are missing before requesting Graduation Ceremony. If you have any questions about your student's credit status, contact the office well in advance of deadlines so we may assist you.

AliYah Academy has final determinations regarding graduation, transcripts, and ceremony participation.

*See the **High School Handbook** for all Graduation requirements.

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8. **Guest Tickets & Seating**

- **5 seats included** per graduate
- Up to **5 additional seats** may be purchased for **$10 each**
- After **March** additional seats will be available if space allows until **May 21** *(we will begin taking payments for additional seats starting April 13)*

All seating must be **paid for in advance**. We are unable to sell seats at the door.

Please note: Physical tickets are **not issued**. Parents and Guests will receive a **wristband upon arrival** based on the number of registered guest seats.

We will have staff at the entrance to check-in each graduate's family and friends. Guests will provide the graduate's name at check-in so our staff can verify their registration number.

Infants or babies who will be **held in someone's lap** do not require a purchased seat. If a child will occupy their own seat, a seat must be purchased.

To inquire about extra seats, contact the Homeschool Resource Center:

Monday–Thursday 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Phone: 423-353-4668 **Email**: AliYahAcademyEvents@proton.me

*See **4. Event Times** for what time Students, Parents, and Guests should arrive.

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9. Additional Information

- Masks are **not required**
- Space is limited
- All ceremony fees are **non-refundable**
- The stage is accessed by stairs. If a parent or student is unable to use stairs, please notify us in advance so we can make appropriate accommodations.

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10. Senior Shirt

Families may order an optional **Senior Shirt** for an **additional cost** when available. The Senior Shirt is **not included** with the Graduation Ceremony package.

To order a Senior Shirt:

1. Log in to your account
2. Select the **Events** tab
3. Choose **Senior Shirt Order***

*We post on **Facebook, Band**, and our **website** when ordering is available.

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11. Communication

AliYah Academy uses the **BAND app** to communicate important ceremony updates with participating families.

BAND will be used for:

- Event reminders and timeline updates
- Ceremony logistics and announcements
- Sharing **professional photos** taken at the ceremony *(photos will be sent through a link and will expire after 14 days)*
- Posting important last-minute information

An invitation link to join our Graduation Ceremony BAND group will be emailed in March and April to participating families from: Abigail Nemeth at **aliyahacademyevents@proton.me**

Please check your inbox (and spam folder) and join promptly so you do not miss important information.

12. Final Notes

The AliYah Academy Formal Graduation Ceremony is a joyful celebration of perseverance, growth, and family involvement. We are honored to celebrate this milestone with you and look forward to welcoming your family to this special occasion.

For questions or special circumstances, please contact AliYah Academy.

Main Phone 865-297-6940

Office Phone 423-353-4668 Monday – Thursday 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

www.aliyahacademy.com