

**MASON DIXON HOMESCHOOLERS ASSOCIATION  
ELEVENTH ANNUAL GRADUATION CEREMONY 2010**

**Ceremony Date and Time:** Saturday, June 26, 2010

**Time:** 1:30 p.m.

**REHEARSAL:** That morning at 10:00. Change from previous years! The graduate and at least ONE PARENT must be at the rehearsal at 10:00. See details and any changes to this in the **follow up information letter**.

**Location: Open Door Church  
600 Miller Street  
Chambersburg, PA 17201**

**Directions: From I 81 take Exit 16, US 30 W towards Chambersburg; Continue west on US30 through the square Chambersburg about a mile and then turn right onto Grandview Avenue. Go .3 mile and turn left onto Miller Street which serves as the entrance to the church which is at the top of the hill. 717-264-3266  
www.theopendoorchurchpa.com**

**CEREMONY and REGISTRATION INFORMATION**

**Please read THIS ENTIRE APPLICATION (4 pages) before registering and save for your reference.** There are changes made from year to year! Register by February 25, to receive the early bird discount. *You must use a current year registration form which will be put on the website in the fall or in January.* If registering AFTER April 20, please call to receive information on ordering a cap and gown. Only members of the local MDHSA support group OR participants in the MDHSA diploma program OR the Transcript Credit Verification Service are permitted to participate in the ceremony. We must have received either your MDHSA local support group membership form/fee OR your Diploma Program registration/fees OR your Credit Verification enrollment form and fee previously or with this graduation ceremony registration form. MDHSA membership forms or Graduation Ceremony registration forms are available at [www.mdhsa-pa.org](http://www.mdhsa-pa.org) or by requesting the forms by leaving your name and address (speak clearly!) at the MDHSA office at 717-749-5767 or e-mailing [diploma@pa.net](mailto:diploma@pa.net).

Diploma Program students and Credit Verification students are not eligible for the MDHSA members' discount unless their parents have submitted a current year MDHSA Membership Form and dues *in addition* to the student's Diploma Program Registration fee OR Credit Verification enrollment fee.

The MDHSA graduation ceremony is *usually* held the last Saturday in June, but you should always wait to check the current year registration form on the MDHSA website to confirm location, date and time.

**Please realize** that many hours and days of work have gone into planning the graduation ceremony to make this a special event for all the graduates. Also remember that this is a group activity and the needs of the larger group will be foremost in planning this ceremony, rather than individual desires and opinions.

The ceremony starts with a processional of seniors wearing caps and gowns of various colors followed by a welcome and invocation, selected student talent, a student address, and a challenge to students by a commencement speaker. It culminates with parents presenting diplomas to their students while the biography is read aloud by a moderator. The ceremony lasts approximately 1 ½ hours. There were 38 graduates in 2008, and 42 in 2009.

1. →→**You must enclose with your registration, a self-addressed stamped postcard or envelope** with the words "MDHSA Grad Ceremony Form Received" on the back of the envelope or card to confirm receipt of registration. MDHSA cannot e-mail or call you to confirm receipt. If it is not returned to you **within 10 days** (or within 5 days if registering after April 20) of mailing your registration form, please contact our office immediately. This is important to confirm that your registration did not get lost in the mail!
2. →→**Follow-up INFORMATION LETTER:** This will be sent out in May. If you do not receive this letter by **May 25**, (or within 5 days, if registering after May 25), please contact the MDHSA office promptly. Please watch for it in the mail and send confirmation immediately according to instructions in the letter. We have to call everyone, who does not contact us, to confirm that they received it, so please save time by contacting us.

**CONTINUE TO NEXT 3 PAGES**

3. →→**STUDENT BIOGRAPHY:** It must be e-mailed or postmarked by **April 20** or if you register after April 20<sup>th</sup> send it **immediately**. If you have e-mail you must use e-mail and e-mail it to diploma@pa.net. Please put “GRAD BIO- STUDENT’S NAME” in the subject line. Whether you e-mail it or mail it, it must be *typed and double-spaced, in font size 18 if possible*. It is to be written in the 3<sup>rd</sup> person – as if someone wrote it about the student--and should be 75 words or fewer---regarding homeschool involvement, education, awards or future plans, etc. Please check it carefully for grammar and proper punctuation. Please use the format below. Parents and/or students may write this. We will not repeatedly ask for this as in previous years. Confirm by e-mail that we received it or send a self-addressed stamped postcard that says “BIO received” and we will mail it to you upon receipt of bio. If the bio arrives too late only the student’s name will be read aloud at the ceremony (and that may look odd if you are the only one!). Here is an example.

Mary Louise Grove  
Chambersburg, PA

Mary is the daughter of George and Jane Grove and has been homeschooled since 5th grade. Her interests are horses and music and she has won many awards in both areas. She has been an example of faithfulness in her church youth group and completed a mission’s trip to Mexico this past summer. In September, Mary will major in music at Cedarville University.

4. **Caps, Gowns, and Tassels:** The multiple colors look lovely and distinguish the students as homeschoolers who are each different. All Students are required to wear caps and gowns for the group graduation picture and for the ceremony. If there are any concerns or needs regarding this, please contact the MDHSA office. Anyone arriving at the ceremony refusing to wear a cap and/or gown without contacting the office prior to the ceremony will be denied the right to be in the ceremony. Your graduation registration fee will not be refunded. There is a place on the registration form to purchase a cap and gown. However, if a student has access to a cap and/or gown he may use it. He will need to order a tassel. If you live locally, you will be called to pick up your cap and gown, so that you can iron it. Those coming from a distance will be given the (previously ironed) cap and gown that day. If you are having a financial hardship, please contact the office concerning ordering a used cap and gown (only in royal blue).
5. **MDHSA Diploma Program participants:** The Diploma Request form, all 9-12th summaries, all 9-12th evaluations, honors applications, recommendations, sample writings, etc., and diploma fee should be received by **May 26** or as soon as the evaluation is completed. Contact your evaluator to have your senior evaluated as early as possible. Please make sure EVERYTHING is included. All minimum courses should be checked on the annual summary form, ALL signatures should be on each form, all credits and grades (or P for pass) should be filled in (no empty boxes), all credits needed to graduate should have been documented and all honors applications, recommendations and sample writing should be included in the paperwork. We try our best to have all diplomas and transcripts ready for the ceremony, but it is stressful on our part time staff and volunteers if we have to repeatedly contact people for documentation needed and it does not arrive until the week of the ceremony or sometimes the day before the ceremony! If you send in paperwork by May 26, we will contact you if anything is missing. However, if there are still items missing by **June 15**, the student will still be able to participate (walk) but he will not receive his diploma or transcript until after the ceremony. He will receive a dummy diploma cover at the ceremony. If he applied for an honor, it will not be noted in the paper program if documentation is incomplete by that date.
6. **Other Diplomas:** If you are an MDHSA member and are receiving another diploma, OR are a Credit Verification Student, please bring the diploma or a suitable substitute (if diploma is not yet available). We have cover dummies that may be borrowed if you do not have the diploma cover available. Send a note with this form if you need one.
7. **Invitations and Announcements:** MDHSA does not provide these. Suggestion: www.milligans.com or 800-544-4696. Order at least 2 weeks before you need them, unless ordering picture invitations---order those earlier.
8. **Talent:** Check the registration form if you have a talent (musical, reading/recitation, etc.) of no longer than 3 minutes that you would like to share during the graduation or possibly as a musical prelude. Send a detailed description of the performance, if it is instrumental or voice, if it is to be a solo or a duet or ensemble, title and words to the song or reading and the names of other seniors performing. BE SURE TO PUT YOUR NAME ON any attached pages in case they get separated from this form. This does not guarantee that you will be accepted. We will let you know if chosen or not (**in the information letter if not before**). No gymnastics or dance numbers accepted. Be sure to rehearse before arriving, and rehearse again at the church. Bring any music CD’s, if needed, for accompaniment. A piano will be available for your accompanist or you to use.

**CONTINUE TO NEXT 2 PAGES to REGISTER**

## 2010 MDHSA GRADUATION CEREMONY REGISTRATION FORM

You must use the current year registration form and submit anytime or by **April 20**. If you did not learn of the ceremony until after April 20<sup>th</sup>, please call 717-749-5767 or e-mail [diploma@pa.net](mailto:diploma@pa.net) to learn how to order a cap, tassel, and gown. Please read previous two pages carefully. Please PRINT. Complete and mail pages 3 and 4.

Parent (s) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**FOR ALL GRADUATES IN THE SAME FAMILY, please print the student's name below exactly as you wish it to appear in the program. Most choose first, middle, and last name, but it is not required.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Male \_\_\_ Female \_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Male \_\_\_ Female \_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Male \_\_\_ Female \_\_\_

**MDHSA members:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ \$30 for Registrations postmarked by February 25
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$40 for Registrations postmarked February 26 to April 20
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 for Registrations postmarked after April 20
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$15 fee for each additional graduate in the same family

**Non-members:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 for Registrations postmarked by February 25
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$60 for Registrations postmarked February 26 to April 20
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$70 for Registrations postmarked after April 20
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$15 fee for each additional graduate in the same family

**GUESTS:** Please write how many you think will be attending (do not include the graduate). \_\_\_\_\_ You are not locked into this number, and you do not need to contact us if it changes. This helps us to know if we will have 50 guests or 300 in order to prepare seating, programs, etc. There is no guest limit or fee for guests this year.

**CAP, GOWN AND TASSEL ORDERS:** You may order a complete cap, gown and tassel package, cap and tassel only or only a tassel or extra tassels. All students are required to wear caps and gowns. Caps and gowns must be the same color.

**Graduate's name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Height of student (feet and inches):** \_\_\_\_\_ **Weight** \_\_\_\_\_

**Circle Cap/Gown colors:** Black White Navy Royal Blue Green Red Maroon Purple Silver Gold.

**Circle Tassel Colors:** Black White Navy Royal Blue Green Red Maroon Purple Silver Gold.

**Tassel Color combined with (optional)** White Silver Gold

**If you have more than 1 student graduating,** send another copy of this section with the additional student's cap and gown information. Please **staple** it to this registration form. Include the payment information below for all students graduating.

**Payment:**

Registration fee for 1<sup>st</sup> graduate:..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\$15 for each additional graduate in the same family x \_\_\_\_\_ (# of additional graduates) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\$35.00 for each **Cap, Tassel and Gown** package x \_\_\_\_\_ (# of packages) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\$15.00 for each **Cap and Tassel** package x \_\_\_\_\_ (# of packages) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\$6.00 for each **Tassel** only x \_\_\_\_\_ (# of tassels only) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED Check No. \_\_\_\_\_ Date. \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make checks payable to MDHSA and mail payment and pages 3 and 4 to: MDHSA Grad Ceremony 32 W. Main St. No. 5, Waynesboro, PA 17268**

**CONTINUE TO NEXT PAGE TO CONTINUE REGISTERING**

**PLEASE FILL OUT THIS PAGE!!! We need this information to adequately plan a smooth ceremony. Please fill out one for each graduate in your family.**

**Graduate's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Parent's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

1. **YOU MUST SEND** the Biography ASAP or by April 20 or immediately if you register after that date. (You must e-mail if you have e-mail). See previous instructions and deadlines.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Did you enclose the required self-addressed stamped post card/envelope, with "Grad Ceremony form received" written on the back? It will be returned to you upon receipt.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Check if you (parent and teen) would like to be on the graduation committee. You must live locally and register early to be on the committee.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Check here if you live locally and are willing to help as you are available, even though you cannot be on the graduation committee. Check all that apply (don't worry, you won't be asked to do them all!)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ ironing a few caps and gowns for people coming from a distance and bringing them with you to the ceremony
  - \_\_\_\_\_ coordinating and putting together the reading of scripture verses (a choral reading by 3 students)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ picking up and distributing caps and gowns to local families prior to the graduation (they can meet you at a designated place, such as your home or the MDHSA office).
  - \_\_\_\_\_ set up a picture corner to take pictures of the graduates.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ help at the MDHSA office as needed (folding programs, etc.) if I am available
  - \_\_\_\_\_ help however needed, if I am available
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Suggestion of Bible verse(s) to be used in choral reading (write out):
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Check if you will take advantage of the space provided for a senior collage OR for art (or other) students who would like to display their ONE best piece. Tables available for tri-fold displays or graduates may provide their own easel. If there is little interest in this, the **Information letter** will let you know if the tables will not be available.
7. Please write below the names and ages (11 and up) of your siblings who would like to be ushers/usherettes, or greeters (hand out programs) and will be at the church by 1:00 to receive instructions and to be in place ½ hour before the ceremony. We will let you know in the Information letter if not before if they are chosen.  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_ I would like share a talent at the ceremony. I have attached words and title and author/composer of the piece I would like to perform and type of instrument. Please check all that apply, and write names of other seniors participating (such as in an ensemble). PLEASE read detailed information on previous pages.  
**Speaking pieces:** \_\_\_\_\_ recitation \_\_\_\_\_ reading  
**Music pieces:** \_\_\_\_\_ Instrumental \_\_\_\_\_ voice \_\_\_\_\_ solo \_\_\_\_\_ duet or more (list names of other performers)
9. \_\_\_\_\_ Check if you would be willing to take part in the choral reading of Scripture. (3 seniors take turns reading selected passages of Scripture and sometimes reading in unison-these students should be smooth readers).
10. Have you registered with the Diploma Program or the Credit Verification Service? \_\_\_\_\_  
Are you an MDHSA support group member? \_\_\_\_\_ If you have not registered with the Diploma Program or CVS, and you are not a local MDHSA support group member, you are may not participate. You may print a member form and send in a ½ year membership fee along with this grad form. (www.mdhsa-pa.org.)
11. Are you receiving an MDHSA diploma? \_\_\_\_\_  
Circle any honors you are applying for: **Performance in Fine Arts**    **Distinction**    **Academic Honors**
12. Are you receiving another diploma? \_\_\_\_\_ Indicate any honors here \_\_\_\_\_.
13. \_\_\_\_\_ Check here if you would like to have your name, address, e-mail, and phone number put on a list to share with the other graduates to communicate with each other after graduation (graduates have requested this list in previous years). If you do not check this, your name will NOT be included in the list given to other students.