

GCCHSA GRADUATION QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

On June 12, 2009, the Ad Hoc Graduation Review Committee of the GCCHSA e-mailed a survey to all current member families of the GCCHSA. Two reminders were e-mailed, and the original deadline for return of the survey, June 19, 2009, was extended to June 26, 2009 in order to encourage more families to respond.

There were several parts to the survey. The first part asked general questions about participation. The second part asked families to rate the importance of many aspects of the graduation process and ceremony. The third part asked families who should make the decision about various parts of the graduation ceremony, and the fourth and fifth parts were open-ended questions designed to elicit feedback about past graduations and suggestions for future planning meetings and ceremonies.

In all, 25 families submitted their surveys before the deadline. Their answers were collated and analyzed. An additional two families submitted their surveys after the data had been analyzed. Where possible, their answers were added in. Presented here are the collated results of the surveys. An explanation of the statistics used is presented at the beginning of each part.

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PART I: Answers from all 27 returned surveys are included, but not every survey included an answer for every question.

1. Have you participated in a GCCHSA Graduation Ceremony before?
Yes: 16 No: 10 Attended: 1

2. If yes, how many 12th-grade graduations? How many 8th-grade graduations?
1 grad: 11 1 grad: 6
2 grads: 1 2 grads: 3
3 grads: 1 3 grads: 2

3. Do you plan to have a future 12th-grader participate in a GCCHSA Graduation Ceremony?
Yes: 24 No: 0 Don't Know: 3

4. Do you plan to have a future 8th-grader participate in a GCCHSA Graduation Ceremony?
Yes: 17 No: 6 Don't Know: 1

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PART II: Respondents were asked to rate the importance of particular items on a scale of 1 to 5. Twenty-four families rated the items in this part, although not all people rated all items. In the results below, the number of respondents for each item is indicated to the right of the item. (e.g., N = 23 means there were 23 responses to that item.)

Because the measure for this item was a scale using discrete numbers, calculating a mean (average) was inappropriate. Rather, the frequencies of responses are indicated by the number of slanted lines to the right of each possible response. The percentage of the total number of responses for that item is also given for each response.

- Please rate the following items on the scale given:
- 1 = Absolutely unnecessary
 - 2 = Not very important
 - 3 = Important
 - 4 = Very important
 - 5 = Absolutely essential

Item:

- A. GCCHSA sponsorship of 12th-grade graduation N=24
- | | |
|------------|-----|
| 1 | 4% |
| 2 /// | 12% |
| 3 ///// | 21% |
| 4 ////// | 25% |
| 5 //////// | 38% |
- B. GCCHSA sponsorship of 8th-grade graduation N=23
- | | |
|------------|-----|
| 1 /// | 17% |
| 2 // | 9% |
| 3 ///// | 22% |
| 4 /// | 17% |
| 5 //////// | 35% |
- C. Participation of your 8th grader or future 8th grader in a graduation ceremony N=19
- NOTE: Not answered by those with no younger children**
- | | |
|------------|-----|
| 1 | 5% |
| 2 /// | 21% |
| 3 // | 11% |
| 4 ///// | 16% |
| 5 //////// | 37% |
- D. Participation of your 12th grader or future 12th grader in a graduation ceremony N=24
- | | |
|--------------|-----|
| 1 | 0% |
| 2 / | 4% |
| 3 /// | 17% |
| 4 //////// | 33% |
| 5 ////////// | 46% |
- E. Having a designated weekend on which the graduation ceremony would be held every year N= 24
- | | |
|------------|-----|
| 1 /// | 17% |
| 2 ///// | 21% |
| 3 //////// | 33% |
| 4 /// | 17% |
| 5 /// | 12% |

F.	Having a designated location where the graduation ceremony would be held every year	N=24
	1 ///// 21%	
	2 //////// 37%	
	3 //// 17%	
	4 ///// 21%	
	5 / 4%	

G.	Uniformity of dress for 12 th graders	N=24
	1 // 8%	NOTE: An ambiguous question
	2 //////// 37%	
	3 // 17%	
	4 ///// 21%	
	5 //////// 29%	

H.	Uniformity of dress for 8 th graders	N=23
	1 ///// 22%	
	2 ///// 26%	
	3 ///// 26%	
	4 //// 17%	
	5 // 9%	

I.	Participation of parents of 12 th graders in the decision-making process	N=24
	1 0%	
	2 /// 12%	
	3 ///// 25%	
	4 //////// 29%	
	5 //////// 33%	

J.	Participation of parents of 8 th graders in the decision-making process	N=23
	1 / 4%	
	2 ///// 22%	
	3 //////// 35%	
	4 ///// 26%	
	5 /// 13%	

K.	Participation of parents of 12 th graders in elements of the ceremony	N=24
	1 / 4%	
	2 /// 13%	
	3 //////// 38%	
	4 //////// 33%	
	5 /// 12%	

L.	Participation of parents of 8 th graders in elements of the ceremony	N=23
	1 4%	
	2 //////// 30%	
	3 ////////// 43%	
	4 // 9%	
	5 /// 13%	
M.	Participation of 12 th graders in the decision-making process	N=24
	1 0%	
	2 /// 17%	
	3 ////////// 38%	
	4 //////// 29%	
	5 /// 17%	
N.	Participation of 12 th graders in creation of the yearbook and program	N=23
	1 0%	
	2 / 4%	
	3 ////////// 39%	
	4 ////////// 39%	
	5 /// 17%	
O.	Participation of 12 th graders in elements of the ceremony	N=23
	1 0%	
	2 / 4%	
	3 ///// 26%	
	4 ////////// 39%	
	5 //////// 30%	
P.	Participation of 8 th graders in the decision-making process	N=23
	1 /// 13%	
	2 ////////// 43%	
	3 ////////// 39%	
	4 / 4%	
	5 0%	
Q.	Participation of 8 th graders in elements of the ceremony	N=23
	1 /// 17%	
	2 /// 17%	
	3 ////////// 48%	
	4 /// 13%	
	5 / 4%	

R.	Having a 12 th grader give an address	N=23
	1 0%	
	2 // 9%	
	3 //////// 35%	
	4 //////// 26%	
	5 //////// 30%	
S.	Having 12 th graders participate in the musical numbers/special music	N=24
	1 0%	
	2 // 8%	
	3 ///// 21%	
	4 //////// 38%	
	5 //////// 33%	
T.	Having 8 th graders participate in the musical numbers/special music	N=23
	1 /// 13%	
	2 //////// 35%	
	3 //////// 30%	
	4 /// 17%	
	5 / 4%	
U.	Having a class trip for the 12 th graders	N=24
	1 /// 17%	
	2 //////// 54%	
	3 /// 13%	
	4 /// 13%	
	5 / 4%	
V.	Fundraising for the class trip	N=24
	1 //////// 25%	
	2 //////// 38%	
	3 //////// 25%	
	4 / 4%	
	5 // 8%	
W.	Keeping the 8 th -grade and 12 th -grade graduation ceremonies combined	N=22
	1 /// 18%	
	2 /// 14%	
	3 //////// 27%	
	4 //////// 32%	
	5 // 9%	

X. Separating the 8th-grade and 12th-grade graduation ceremonies

N=22

- 1|///////// 45%
- 2|///// 27%
- 3|/ 5%
- 4|// 9%
- 5|/// 14%

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PART III: Respondents were asked to indicate which groups should have the privilege of voting for various items of the graduation ceremony. They could indicate as many groups as they wished for each item. In essence, for each group on each item, the respondents were answering the question, “Should this group be allowed to vote on this item?” An X indicated “yes” and no mark indicated “No”. Twenty-one members responded on this part. A simple majority of 21 is 11, so for any item that carries a count of 11 or more, the simple majority has said that that group should have the privilege of voting on the item indicated.

It should be noted that the GCCHSA Board of Trustees was not included as a possible response on this part. Three respondents indicated that they believed that some of the decisions should be made by the Board of Trustees rather than the graduating students or their parents.

	<u>Parents of 12th graders</u>	<u>12th-grade Students</u>	<u>Parents of 8th graders</u>	<u>8th-grade Students</u>
Date of the graduation ceremony	21	4	18	2
Location of the graduation ceremony	20	4	15	2
Attire for 12 th graders	16	13	2	0
Attire for 8 th graders	5	0	19	11
Diploma paper/covers	13	7	7	4
Layout and content of the program	18	11	13	3
Music for the 12 th -grade processional	17	15	1	0
Music for the 8 th -grade processional	5	0	17	13
Music for the 12-grade recessional	17	13	1	0
Special music	17	17	12	9
Music for congregational singing	16	15	10	9
Student speakers	18	15	9	8
Invited speaker(s)	21	11	14	6
Master of ceremonies	19	8	12	3
Pianist/organist	20	8	13	4
Decorations	17	12	13	8
Graduation Committee officers	21	10	15	6

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Parts IV & V: Open-ended questions are difficult to quantify. Many of the responses to the questions have been incorporated in the new graduation guidelines and graduation manual. Respondents supplied many helpful ideas and suggestions.

Those questions that could be quantified are presented below. These questions include answers from all 27 surveys.

PART IV: All member families please answer.

1. **What one thing is the most important part of a Christian high school graduation?**
That it be “Christ-honoring” / “God-honoring” / “Give glory to God”: 14
4. **Would you prefer the graduation ceremony be held on Friday night or Saturday?**
Friday: 10 Saturday: 11 No Preference: 2
5. **If the graduation ceremony were held on Saturday, would you prefer morning, afternoon, or evening?**
Morning: 6 Afternoon: 16 Evening: 5

PART V: Those who have had children graduate with GCCHSA please answer.

3. **Was there enough communication during the planning process?**
Yes: 10
No: 3
Too much communication: 1
4. **Was your teen happy with his/her amount of participation in the decision-making process?**
Yes: 9
No: 5
5. **Was your teen happy with his/her amount of participation in the ceremony?**
Yes: 15
No: 1