

# Class of 2020 Dues

Parents and Students of the Class of 2020:

Hello! I am Mrs. Niaves and I have the privilege of being the lead sponsor for the DeBakey class of 2020. I cannot believe it is already their junior year. I am so very proud of all the students for the hard work they have exhibited to get to this point. Senior year and all its events will be here before any of us know it. Preparations for that exciting time must begin this year in order to make the processes smooth and to secure the best arrangements for the class of 2020.

This year, my goal is to collect the majority of the class dues from the class of 2020 students. The costs associated with prom, graduation, and the senior class field trip continue to rise each year. We have to approximate the cost of the dues and as we get closer to the senior year we can adjust it accordingly. By the end of the 2018-19 school year, I will be securing venues and making arrangements for all of the exciting events that happen their senior year. I will not be able to do this without the dues.

## **How much will class dues be?**

2016-2017 Freshman Year: \$75

2017-2018 Sophomore Year: \$75

2018-2019 Junior Year: \$50

2019-2020 Senior Year: \$50

**Grand total for all 4 years: \$250**

## **What will the money be used for?**

Prom:

- Venue rental
- Food and beverage from caterer
- Decorations
- Party favors
- Music
- Venue staff
- One paid prom ticket for each student who pays dues (a separate ticket must be purchased for a guest)

Graduation:

- Caps and gowns (student keeps)
- Diploma
- Custom diploma cover
- Flowers and other decorations

Senior field trip

- Any remaining funds are put toward the senior class field trip with the hope of needing little to no additional funds from students for that trip.

## **Why so much?**

DeBakey schedules events that are a reflection of the exceptional students we have the privilege of teaching. A quality prom and graduation are very expensive events to conduct even when we act frugally. Prom typically costs between \$20,000 and \$30,000 each year. Graduation costs upwards of \$10,000 each year. The senior field trip runs in the thousands as well.

**How do I pay the dues?**

There are two different ways that you will be able to pay.

1. We are now accepting electronic payment for the class of 2020 through [www.schoolpay.com](http://www.schoolpay.com). You are able to pay class dues with credit and debit cards. Make sure you chose the class of 2020. **Please have students bring a receipt from school pay to Mrs. Niaves so I can keep a record of it.**
2. Mrs. Niaves can collect cash, cashier's checks, and money orders if needed. Make cashier's checks/money orders payable to "DeBakey High School". Students should bring money to Mrs. Niaves in room 223 to be collected, recorded, and deposited into the account designated for the class of 2020. Students should not attempt to give money to any other teacher unless Mrs. Niaves designates it. Sorry, no personal checks accepted.

**Will I receive a receipt for my payments?**

Absolutely! At the time the money is collected, I can email a receipt to an email address and I will give the student a paper copy.

**Can I pay the dues early or spread them out over several months?**

Absolutely! The amounts listed per year are minimums for that year. You may certainly pay more than the minimum or pay the whole amount due. Students can also bring in smaller amounts over the course of a year that add up to the minimum. I know that every family's finances and budget are different. I will tract every students dues over the course of the four years.

**Can I donate additional money or materials, independent of dues, to the class of 2020?**

Absolutely! Even with dues collection, we frequently experience a short-fall in funding and/or materials. Contact us if you wish to make a direct donation to the class of 2020 independent of dues.

**Who can I contact with questions?**

You may contact Mrs. Niaves, at [SNIAVES@houstonisd.org](mailto:SNIAVES@houstonisd.org) for questions. We are looking forward to working with the class of 2020 to make their experiences here as fun and memorable as possible!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Niaves