

**ALTOONA AREA HIGH SCHOOL
COMMENCEMENT NEWSLETTER
CLASS OF 2019**



Andrew S. Neely, Principal
Assistant Principals:
Shane M. Cowher, Class of 2019
David M. Bufalini, Class of 2020
Jason R. McGinnis, Class of 2021
Philip T. Riccio, Athletic Office
Vincent J. Nedimyer, Jr., William P. Kimmel Alternative School

IMPORTANT DATES

- Friday, May 10, 2019
 - Monday, May 20, 2019
 - Friday, May 31, 2019
 - Tuesday, June 4, 2019
 - Tuesday, June 4, 2019
 - Friday, June 7, 2019
 - Monday, June 10, 2019
 - Monday, June 10, 2019
 - Tuesday, June 11, 2019
- Senior iPad Collection
 - Collection of School Materials
 - Prom – No School for Seniors
 - Senior Awards Assembly – 8:45 a.m.
 - Cap & Gown Distribution (immediately following Awards Assembly)
 - Senior Walk (JHS, Elementary, HS)
 - No School for Seniors
 - **Commencement Service - 6:00 p.m.**
 - Distribution of Diplomas in Auxiliary Gym
[during hours of 8:00 - 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.]

ATTENDANCE

In past years there have been organized attempts by Seniors to skip school. This illegal absence from school should not be encouraged or condoned by parents. In the event there is an excessive number of Seniors absent from school, the following procedures will be instituted: (1) The State Police will be notified that we have an excessive number of students absent, and (2) every home will be contacted by telephone for verification that the student is absent for an acceptable reason. Your cooperation will prevent the personal tragedies that sometimes can occur during these organized illegal absences from school. **Seniors who skip school may lose their senior activity privileges.**

PA UNDERAGE DRINKING LAW

The Pennsylvania Underage Drinking Law provides for a suspension of driving privileges for any minor convicted of the purchase of, attempt to purchase, consumption of, transportation of or falsification of information regarding the minor's age to obtain alcohol. The court may require the child to be evaluated regarding the extent of his/her alcohol involvement and mandate completion of an alcohol education program.

Adults who provide alcohol for a minor's consumption are guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. This carries a penalty of up to one year in jail. Fines of \$1,000 for the first offense and \$2,500 per occurrence (for example, if 6 high school students are accidentally served alcohol at your party, you could be looking at a fine of nearly \$15,000) for the second and subsequent offenses are also assessed. Always provide proper adult supervision at teen parties to ensure they are free of alcohol.

SUMMER SCHOOL

Summer School registrations will be accepted beginning Monday, May 1st in the High School Main Office for Seniors who must complete additional course credits to be awarded a diploma. Any Senior with special problems should contact his/her Assistant Principal or Counselor. **Summer School 1st Session begins June 13th through June 28th and the 2nd Session begins July 8th through July 23rd.**

COLLECTION OF SCHOOL MATERIALS – Monday, May 20, 2019

Seniors are to return books, locks, athletic equipment, etc. These items may be returned on Monday, 1st through 7th periods. Fines will be issued for all materials not returned by the close of school on May 20th.

PROM AND AFTER GLO - Friday, May 31, 2019 – Seniors not in classes

The Prom will be from 7:45 P.M. to 10:45 P.M. at the Blair County Convention Center. The Prom tickets will cost \$15.00 per person. The AFTER GLO will begin at 12:00 midnight at the Blair County Convention Center (doors open at 11:30 P.M.) and terminate on Saturday, June 1st at 4:00 A.M. **NO ONE WILL BE ADMITTED AFTER 1:00 A.M.** Senior door prize winners will be announced between 3:30 A.M. and 3:45 A.M. Seniors

must be present to win. The AFTER GLO will cost \$15.00 per person.

Dress for the prom will be semi-formal. Jeans, sneakers, chains, hats, T-shirts, or clothing of an immodest nature are not permitted, while gowns and tuxedos are not mandatory.

Prom and AFTER GLO tickets will be sold **May 13 through May 30 from 7:05 A.M. to 7:45 A.M.** in the Media Lab/A204. All Seniors must have photo identification and a ticket to be admitted to the AFTER GLO. SENIORS DESIRING TO BRING A GUEST TO THE PROM OR AFTER GLO, WHO IS NOT AN AAHS STUDENT, MUST HAVE PRIOR APPROVAL. A GUEST WHO IS A GRADUATE OF ANOTHER SCHOOL MUST PRESENT A COPY OF HIS/HER DIPLOMA BEFORE A PROM TICKET CAN BE ISSUED. PERSONS WHO HAVE WITHDRAWN FROM SCHOOL FOR REASONS OTHER THAN TRANSFER OR GRADUATION WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE GUESTS. A GUEST CURRENTLY ATTENDING ANOTHER SCHOOL MUST HAVE A LETTER FROM HIS/HER PRINCIPAL STATING THAT HE/SHE IS A STUDENT IN GOOD STANDING. THIS LETTER MUST BE ON SCHOOL DISTRICT STATIONERY. A FORM FOR REQUESTING PERMISSION TO BRING A GUEST MAY BE PICKED UP IN MR. COWHER'S & MR. BUFALINI'S OFFICE STARTING **MAY 1 AND MUST BE RETURNED BY MAY 20, 2019.**

ALL AAHS STUDENTS & APPROVED GUESTS MUST HAVE PHOTO IDENTIFICATION TO BE ADMITTED TO THE PROM AND/OR AFTER GLO.

STUDENTS WHO OWE AFTER-SCHOOL DETENTION OR SATURDAY DETENTION CANNOT ATTEND THE PROM/AFTER GLO. ALL DETENTIONS MUST BE MADE UP TWO DAYS PRIOR TO THE DAY YOU PURCHASE YOUR TICKET(S). ANY STUDENT WITH FIVE DEMERITS, OR ON ANY TYPE OF EXTRACURRICULAR PROBATION, CANNOT ATTEND THE PROM/AFTER GLO. IN ADDITION, **ALL FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS (FINES FOR BOOKS, OUTSTANDING CAFETERIA ACCOUNTS, RETURN OF LIBRARY BOOKS, ETC.) MUST BE RESOLVED PRIOR TO PURCHASING YOUR TICKET(S).**

Any questions regarding the Prom should be directed to Mr. David Aboud, 946-8254. The departure times of all students attending the AFTER GLO will be recorded. Parents interested in this information may call the High School Main Office on Monday, June 3rd.

REMEMBER: ATTENDING THE PROM AND AFTER GLO IS A PRIVILEGE, NOT A RIGHT.

SENIOR AWARDS ASSEMBLY – Tuesday, June 4, 2019 8:45 am Auditorium

Students will be called down at 8:30 am for the assembly. Senior parents are welcome to come to the event and should enter through the rear auditorium doors.

After the assembly, Mr. Cowher will address the senior class regarding graduation followed by caps and gowns being distributed.

DISTRIBUTION OF CAPS AND GOWNS – Tuesday, June 4, 2019 - Auxiliary Gym immediately following Senior Awards Assembly

Caps and gowns will be distributed to Seniors in the Auxiliary Gym. Seniors who owe fines or who need to attend Summer School must make payment before receiving their cap and gown. The cap and gown is "keepsake" apparel and will not be collected by the school. It is being provided by the Altoona Area School District as a memento of your graduation. Please follow the directions on the cap and gown packaging regarding its care. Your only cost for the graduation apparel will be the traditional fee for the tassel which is \$3. The \$3 is to be paid when you pick up your diploma.

HOW TO WEAR THE CAP AND GOWN

All caps should be placed straight upon the head with the deep part to the back and the tassel over the left temple. Girls will wear white dresses or white blouses and skirts under the gown. Girls will wear white dress shoes. **AT NO TIME DURING THE SERVICE DO GIRLS REMOVE THEIR CAPS.** Boys will wear white dress shirts, ties, dark trousers, dark socks, and dark shoes. It is not necessary to wear suit jackets under the gown. Boys should place the cap straight upon the head, making sure that the hair is concealed in the front. **At Commencement the boys' caps are taken off for the National Anthem and then replaced for the remainder of the service.** Seniors are not permitted to carry any items (purses, cameras, flowers, etc.) during the procession. **Students who are not properly attired will not be permitted to participate. Additionally, students shall adhere to the appearance guidelines listed in the Student Code of Conduct - "Personal Appearance". Please contact your student's school counselor if you have questions/issues with obtaining proper attire for commencement.**

SENIOR WALK – Friday, June 7, 2019 8:00 am (Students must wear cap and gown)

After reporting room, seniors will be dismissed directly to the high school auditorium. Students will then put on their caps and gowns in preparation for the walk, they will walk together to the junior high school where they will process through the building. Students will then be transported to their former elementary school to process through this building. Finally, students will be transported back to the high school where they will process through this building.

Each school will have their own, unique manner for celebrating this event, but it is truly a nice culmination to the academic career of our seniors.

Monday, June 10, 2019 – Seniors not in classes

This is also the last day to pay fines for school materials that were not returned and to pick up caps and gowns. Fines not paid by 12:00 PM on June 10th may delay receipt of the diploma.

COMMENCEMENT SERVICE – Monday, June 10, 2019 at 6:00 P.M.

The Commencement Service will be held on June 10th at Mansion Park. To help make it an enjoyable and pleasant experience for everyone, please make the necessary time adjustment to compensate for the congested traffic conditions and parking limitations you will encounter at Mansion Park. **Plan to be in your seats no later than 5:15 P.M.** There will be no reserved seats; tickets are not required. Special accommodations have been made for the physically challenged; please see one of the ushers if you need assistance. The procession will start at 6:00 P.M. so it is necessary for all seniors to be present by 5:15 P.M. if they wish to participate.

Only qualified Seniors who have maintained their extracurricular privileges and are properly attired may participate in the Commencement Service.

In case of rain, the Service will be held at the AAHS Field House at 6:00 P.M. on the same day, June 10th. Each graduate will receive 4 tickets for the indoor service. Seniors should enter the high school via the Portico entrance. The **boys should report to Cafeteria I; girls to Cafeteria II; and the honor and award recipients to the Library no later than 5:15 P.M.**

Any changes to the Commencement Service will be posted on the School District Webpage and Facebook page. Additionally, a notification will be sent out via our Emergency Notification System (Skylert).

We make every effort through school activities and assemblies to teach our students proper behavior. We have also tried to impress upon them the fact that immature behavior of a few at their Commencement Service can taint the public's assessment of the entire class. Any Senior who exhibits disruptive behavior during the Service will be recommended for disciplinary action and may be removed from the ceremony. Seniors are encouraged to show politeness and courtesy to our program participants and make the Commencement Service for the Class of 2019 a dignified, solemn, and memorable experience.

COMMENCEMENT PHOTOS

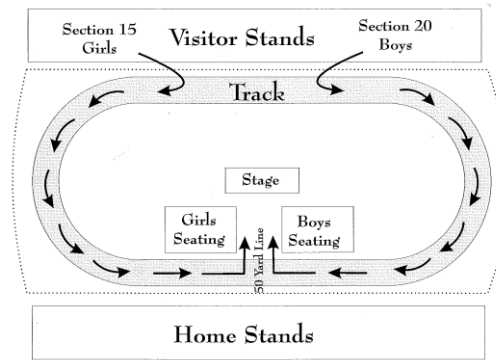
Photographers from **The Film Center** in Altoona will be taking individual pictures of the graduates as they receive their diploma certificates during Commencement. In addition, they will be at the front entrance taking group/family pictures before the commencement begins. Parents and students will have the option of ordering photos at The Film Center in the Pleasant Valley Shopping Center or through their website: **www.yourdigitalexperts.com**. Prints of your graduation photos start at \$8.95 plus tax.



DISTRIBUTION OF DIPLOMAS, REPORT CARDS, AND GRADUATION AWARDS – Tuesday, June 11, 2019

Diplomas, report cards, and awards will be distributed from 8:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. and 1:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M. in the Auxiliary Gym. Diplomas will not be issued until the Senior has completed all the academic requirements for graduation and paid any fines recorded on his/her permanent record. **The traditional \$3.00 tassel fee is payable on this day. If a student does not wish to keep his/her tassel, it will be necessary for him/her to return it when he/she picks up his/her diploma. Students must pick up their diplomas to complete their graduation status and obtain their school records. Diplomas and school awards will be retained in the main office.**

COMMENCEMENT SERVICE
Monday, June 10, 2019
6:00 P.M.
MANSION PARK



1. Seniors should report to Mansion Park with caps and gowns promptly at 5:15 P.M.
2. Boys should report to their assigned seats in SECTION 20 of the visitor bleachers at the flag pole end of the field. Girls should report to their assigned seats in SECTION 15 of the visitor bleachers at the scoreboard end of the field.
3. Teachers and Principals will assist Seniors to form a line, two abreast. Seniors will be given programs and their name cards as the line is formed. **The name card must be maintained in order for your child to be introduced to the audience.**
4. When directed by the teachers, seniors will walk to the 50-yard line in front of the home stands. Teachers will give directions along the way.
5. When the Seniors reach the 50-yard line in front of the home stands, two girls and two boys will meet and march together up the 50-yard line toward the stage. A teacher will be located at this area to give directions.
6. As Seniors file into the seats, beginning with the first row, there will be teachers acting as ushers who will give directions when it is time to start filling another row. Seniors are to remain standing at their seats.
7. Everyone REMAINS STANDING for the National Anthem.
8. Everyone will be seated for the speeches, academic recognition and presentation of awards.
9. Students will process to the front of the stage, hand their name card to the announcer, and be presented to the audience and receive a congratulatory scroll. Students will be called by row by the ushers and will remain standing until everyone in their row is recognized. Students should carefully follow the usher's directions.
10. The Principal will present the symbolic diploma to the School Board President and the School Board President will present the diploma to the Class President. The Class President will ask the class to stand and will lead the change of the tassel from the left side to the right side to symbolize graduation.
11. The class will remain standing for the singing of the first verse of the "Alma Mater" and the Benediction.
12. The class will remain standing at their seats until the teacher ushers arrive and give directions to exit one row at a time. The class will exit the field in the same manner they entered, beginning with the back row, in an orderly fashion.
13. In case of rain, the service will be held the same day, June 10, at 6:00 P.M. at the AAHS Field House. Each Senior will be given four tickets to the Field House. **The male Seniors will report to CAFETERIA I and female Seniors will report to CAFETERIA II. Award and Honor students will report to the LIBRARY.** All members of the Class of 2019 will enter via the Portico doors and report to their designated areas by 5:15 P.M.
14. Seniors are not permitted to carry any items (purse, flowers, camera, cell phone, etc.). Seniors should leave personal items with family and or friends before going to their assigned seats.

PLEASE SHOW POLITENESS AND COURTESY TO OUR PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS AND MAKE THE COMMENCEMENT SERVICES FOR THE CLASS OF 2019 A DIGNIFIED, SOLEMN AND MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE.