

**Class of 2026
Senior Information**

Dear Graduating Senior,

Graduation is quickly approaching, and I know how excited you must be! During these last few months, you will be finishing your time at Horseheads High School and participating in many senior activities. We wanted to get this information out for planning purposes. Information will be updated as we get it.

I have put together some important dates and information for planning ahead. Please see Mrs. Wida in the main office if you have any questions.

Please continue to check your emails for important information, date/time changes, etc.

On behalf of Horseheads High School, I would like to congratulate you on successfully completing your graduation requirements. It is our sincere hope that the education you received has prepared you for whatever your future holds. Congratulations and best wishes!

Mrs. Earl



Important Dates and Events

Senior Prom

Saturday, May 9, 2026 – 6:00-10:00 PM

Corning Raddison

Senior Trip

Saturday, June 20, 2026

Sports Tribute

Wednesday, June 10, 2026 – 6:00 PM

HS Auditorium

Senior Day

Tuesday, June 16, 2026

Senior Walk

Tuesday, June 9, 2026 – 1:00 PM

Elementary Schools

Graduation Rehearsal

Wednesday, June 24, 2026 – 11:00 AM

High School Stadium

Graduation Ceremony

Wednesday, June 24, 2026 (Weather Dependent) – 6:00 PM

High School Stadium

* Project Graduation events are not sponsored by Horseheads High School *

Senior Prom

This year's **theme is "Midnight Gala"**. This event will be on Saturday, May 9, 2026, at the Radison Hotel in Corning on Dennison Parkway. Arrival time is 6:00 PM. A full buffet dinner will start at 6:30 PM and the prom will end at 10:00 PM. There will be music, dancing, an audio and visual guestbook.

Out-of-district guest forms will be available starting on March 16th and need to be completed and handed in by March 25th, before ticket sales. These forms will be available in the main office or with Mrs. Lenhardt in room 209 or Ms. Luongo in room 211.

Tickets will be on sale from March 27 - April 2 and will be \$65 per person.

Distribution of Caps, Gowns, and Other Senior Items

A Jostens representative will be here to distribute caps, gowns, and other graduation items this Spring (specific date will be sent out once determined) during lunch periods. If you do not pick your items up then, you can pick them up from the main office any time after that. When you receive your order, please be sure that all items are included – gown, cap, tassel. If you have not yet ordered, please do so as soon as possible. The link to order is www.nygrad.com.

**** All honors stoles, cords, sashes, and pins will be distributed after the conclusion of the 7th marking period, once all grades are finalized. During this time, we will also proudly announce our Valedictorian, Salutatorian, and 2026 Mark Twain Scholars. ****

Senior Survey

Every spring each senior is **required** to fill out the "Senior Survey." The information we collect on the survey is used for both state and local reporting of our post-graduate plans: college, military, or workforce.

For those students going onto college, the senior survey provides the necessary information for the Counseling Office to be able to send the final transcript to the appropriate college or university. We also ask additional information about scholarships which will be used to recognize seniors at graduation.

When filling out the survey, don't worry if all scholarship awards are not known at this time. Just fill out what is known currently (often these are awards from the colleges). Any further scholarship information that is received after submitting the survey can be emailed to Mrs. Matthews, who can then update your survey.

A link to access the survey will be sent out this Spring.

The senior survey can only be completed by students using their school Office 365 account.

Don't hesitate to contact the Counseling Office with any questions.

Senior Trip

The **Senior Class Trip** will be on Saturday, June 20, 2026. We are still finalizing details on potential destinations and cost. There will be a parent meeting in March in the High School Auditorium at 6PM to discuss all the details. More information will come in a follow-up email and announcement.

Sports Tribute

The Varsity H Athletic Tribute will be held on Wednesday, June 10th at 6pm in the High School Auditorium. Athletes are to report at 5:45. The tribute will recognize students that participated in athletic activities this school year. There will also be individual awards given, Sectional Champion recognition, STAC Champion recognition, and Scholar Team recognition, as well as the male/female Athlete of the Year nominees and winners, along with many other awards.

Senior Celebration

Senior Day will be Tuesday, June 16th. It is the last day of regular classes before Regents exams. The class of 2026 will be excused for the day to celebrate together. An itinerary for the day will be sent out to seniors closer to the date.

Senior Walk

We are thrilled to invite our graduating seniors to a special “Senior Walk” parade at their former elementary schools. This is a unique opportunity to don your caps and gowns and inspire the younger students as you showcase your remarkable journey from the very place it began. Participation is optional, but highly encouraged, as it promises to be a memorable event for both our seniors and the young students.

It will be held on June 9th at their elementary schools. More information and a link to register will be sent out closer to the date.

Graduation Rehearsal – MANDATORY

ALL GRADUATING SENIORS MUST ATTEND GRADUATION REHEARSAL IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE GRADUATION CEREMONY. WORK IS NOT AN ACCEPTABLE EXCUSE. NO EXCEPTIONS!

All graduating seniors must be at the High School Stadium on Wednesday, June 24th at 11am. Rehearsal will last about an hour.

Students are to report to the stadium, find their designated seat, and be ready to receive instructions at promptly 11am. It is imperative to pay close attention to the instructions. We will briefly run through the program, practice the processional, walking across the stage, and the recessional.

Graduation Ceremony

**June 24, 2026 – WEATHER DEPENDENT – Rain Dates 6/25, 6/26, 6/27 – No tickets needed.
Seating is first come, first served.**

All graduating seniors must report to the South Wing of the High School on Wednesday, June 24, 2026, at 5:15pm. Students will line up inside the building and walk out to the stadium. The graduation ceremony will begin at promptly 6:00pm and last approximately 1.5 hours.

Seniors are to park in the senior lot and report directly to the South Wing. Teachers and administrators will be present to help you line up in the correct order and to take attendance. Do not leave your processional line once attendance has been taken.

If you will not be participating in the graduation ceremony, please notify Mrs. Wida as soon as possible to let her know.

A photographer will be on site for the ceremony. You will find a link to view and purchase photos in the graduation program.

Graduation Procedures and Etiquette

Seniors will graduate in alphabetical order. Students will receive their seating assignments at rehearsal. Students will receive their diplomas with their left hand and shake (right) hands with the Board of Education President. Once students receive their diploma and exit the stage, they are to return directly to their assigned seat. While waiting for others to receive their diplomas, please give your fellow graduates respect so that each graduate's name can be properly heard.

Later in the ceremony your class president will lead you in the traditional tassel ceremony and you will be moving your tassel from right to left.

Graduation Attire

You have worked hard to reach this milestone and deserve a ceremony of which you should be proud. A lot of hard work and time – on your part, as well as part of the administrative and clerical staff – goes into making this day a reality. For your graduation ceremony to be a special event for you and your family, we ask for your full cooperation in following procedures.

No heels or flip flops!

Caps are worn straight on the head with the tassel on the right side.

Caps may be tastefully adorned.

Only school issued cords and stoles may be worn.

If you have any questions regarding any end-of-year information, please contact Mrs. Wida the Main Office at 739-5601, ext. 1620 or kawida@horseheadsdistrict.com