

# HUNTINGDON AREA HIGH SCHOOL

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**"ALL LEARNERS, ALL FUTURES"**

**To:** Senior Learners, Parents, and Guardians  
**From:** Mr. Travis R. Lee, High School Principal  
**Re:** Class of 2020 Updates  
**Date:** May 7, 2020

Hello Seniors, Parents, and Guardians,

This message outlines important information about coming senior activities for the Class of 2020. We know that we couldn't have expected this class to graduate during a pandemic, and we must extend our sympathy to them. However, we can still work together to make the most of this situation, and honor our graduates in multiple ways. Updates, information, and important dates are listed below, including some new and/or alternative activities to HAHS, outlining many items and expectations for our seniors. Please review this message carefully, and contact the school office with any questions.

## Information, Updates, and Important Dates

- **Virtual Yearbook**
  - HAHS is partnering with Seven Mountains Media (which includes Merf Radio, Bigfoot Country, and Big Lewie) to provide the Class of 2020 with a Virtual Yearbook. This information was shared with seniors last week. The document outlining this information, and the web link, are shared below.
  - **Submissions are due by Friday, May 8, 2020**, so please submit information to be recognized!
  - [HAHS Virtual Yearbook Procedure: 4/28/20](#)
  - [Virtual Yearbook Link](#)
- **Senior Announcements**
  - Graduation announcements, for those that purchased from Josten's, have arrived. The announcements are available for pick-up in the High School Office on Tuesday, May 12 and Wednesday, May 13 between 7:30 am and 2:30 pm. Please contact the school office if you cannot pick-up the announcements on these dates so that alternative arrangements can be made
- **Decision Day**
  - Ms. Heather Pearson, the HAHS College Advisor, has created activities for the week of May 18th, leading up to Decision Day on Friday, May 22nd.

- Ms. Pearson will provide presentations on the topics listed below via Zoom at 2:00 pm each day. Ms. Pearson will send out Zoom invitations at the beginning of the week. Additional information will be provided in a brochure from Ms. Pearson. Topics will cover information relevant to all learners, not just those that are furthering their education. Learners that participate throughout the week will be entered into a drawing for prizes!
    - Monday, 5/18: Packing for College
    - Tuesday, 5/19: Budgeting; Conquering the First Semester at College (2 presentations)
    - Wednesday, 5/20: Campus Resources
    - Thursday, 5/21: Mastering Interviews
  - On Friday, 5/22, the Decision Day Presentation will be released. This is a slide show that captures the post-secondary decisions that our learners have made, whether it is going to the workforce, the military, to higher education, or if they are undecided. All learners that provided the necessary information to Ms. Pearson via the senior survey will be recognized.
    - Thanks to Mrs. Buckley and the visual arts learners for assisting with this presentation
- **Graduation Project**
    - Seniors were sent information about this year's graduation project. We will not be able to hold our traditional senior symposium, but learners have been given three options to complete their projects. These options have been revised to reflect remote learning. Learners still have the option to present, to mimic symposium to the extent that we can, if they choose to do so.
    - The graduation project provides learners with a final opportunity to organize their resume, references, reflections of strengths and weaknesses during the school experience, career research, and interview preparation. With the importance of learners demonstrating competency in these topics, the project remains a requirement. The revised project options provided make completion of the project feasible. Some learners have completed components of the project already as part of their coursework.
    - Learners have the documents to complete their project in their Grade Level Google Classroom. The overview of the project can also be found on the website using this link: [Revised Graduation Project](#)
    - Mrs. Snare and Ms. Neild will hold Zoom sessions for learners on Tuesday, May 12 for learners to ask questions about the graduation project. Learners will receive an invitation in the senior Google Classroom.
    - Projects are due Tuesday, May 19th!
  - **Senior Awards**
    - There will not be a senior awards ceremony this year. However, awards will still be given and the learners will be recognized as part of the virtual commencement ceremony
    - Learners will receive a Senior Awards program as a keepsake when they receive their diploma

- **Caps & Gowns, Picture Procedures**
  - We are pleased to announce that we will have “keeper” gowns this year. In past years, learners would return their gowns after the commencement ceremony. This year, our seniors will be able to keep both their caps and gowns!
  - **Caps and gowns will be available for pick-up on Tuesday, May 26 through Thursday, May 28, between 8:00 am to 3:00 pm.**
    - There will be a sign-up form sent out, at least a week in advance, for the cap and gown pick-up. Learners will sign-up for specific times in order to limit the numbers for each pick-up session
  - **In addition to picking up caps and gowns, additional activities will also be accomplished on May 26 - 28, via stations that will be facilitated by school office staff**
    - **Virtual Commencement Photograph**
      - Seniors will get a photo in their cap and gown to be used for the virtual commencement ceremony. They should come prepared to don their cap and gown and quickly get their photo. Learners will also state their name in a video clip
    - **Cap Toss Video**
      - A video clip of each senior tossing their cap will be recorded for the virtual commencement
    - **Video Reflection**
      - Learners will have the opportunity to share a brief (30 second) reflection about their school career
      - We hope to be able to incorporate the reflections into a senior video
    - **Time Capsule**
      - Learners are encouraged to bring a small item or note, which can be anything related to their school experience, to include in a time capsule for the class. We are truly living through unprecedented times, and this is a way to remember this class. We will work with the class officers to determine a storage location and time for the capsule to be opened in the future!
    - **Materials Return**
      - Learners should return as many school materials as possible during this time, including iPads, textbooks, and library books
      - Learners should keep these items if they are needed to complete any remaining academic course work. However, they should return as many items as possible at this time to account for any missing items
    - **Materials Retrieval**
      - Items that learners had left in their lockers have been gathered. Learners can pick these up during cap and gown distribution
    - **Senior Debts**
      - Any debts owed may be paid at this time, including for library books, damaged school-issued items, cafeteria fees, etc. We will look to give each learner an update about what debts that they may have via email the week before the cap and gown pick-up. Follow-up messages will continue after this collection until graduation on June 4. All debts must be reconciled prior to receiving diplomas

- **All procedures listed about will be subject to social distancing guidelines and precautions. Changes will be made to the procedures outlined above as needed**
- Additional communication about this procedure will be provided the week prior to cap and gown pick-up
  
- **Commencement Ceremony Update**
  - **We are still planning for a traditional commencement ceremony on June 4th.** However, if that cannot take place due to social distancing guidelines and the health and safety of all involved, we will initiate our plan for a **virtual ceremony, to take place on June 4th.** Some key points about a virtual ceremony are listed below, however, please note the following:
    - Any ceremony that takes place must follow social distancing guidelines
    - HAHS is committed to an in-person graduation, even if that is after June 4 and the virtual ceremony
    - Please see the see the proposed graduation locations and dates shared in a slide at the end of this document
  - **Virtual Commencement Plans/Procedures**
    - We are planning multiple parts to a virtual ceremony, including:
      - Physically distributing diplomas
      - Providing an opportunity for seniors to take a picture with their family
      - Streaming the presentation/ceremony
      - Providing a common viewing location for the livestream
    - The exact details will be shared at a future date, but we wanted to keep you informed through the planning process
    - We will continue to plan for multiple options as we assess what social distancing guidelines will permit





## Proposed Dates/Locations

- **Thursday, June 4, 2020, 7:00 PM**
  - War Veterans Memorial Field
  - HAHS Gymnasium (Auditorium Overflow)
  - **Note: Virtual Ceremony on June 4 if no in-person ceremony**
- **Saturday, July 11, 2020, 10:00 AM**
  - War Veterans Memorial Field
  - Community venue as backup option
- **Saturday, August 15, 2020, 10:00 AM**
  - War Veterans Memorial Field
  - Community venue as backup option
- **Saturday, October 3, 2020 10:00 AM**
  - HAHS Gymnasium
  - **Homecoming weekend**