

Altoona Area High School Commencement Newsletter

Andrew S. Neely, Principal

Assistant Principals:
Jason R. McGinnis - Grade 12
Shane M. Cowher - Grade 11
David M. Bufalini - Grade 10
Philip T. Riccio
Vincent J. Nedimyer Jr.



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Important Dates

- ◆ May 30-Senior Awards Assembly
- ◆ May 18-Prom
- ◆ May 31-Cap & Gown Distribution
- ◆ June 1-No School for Seniors
- ◆ June 1-Commencement
- ◆ June 4-Diploma Distribution

Attendance

In the 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.
- 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 May 1st in the High School Main Office for Senior 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 11th through June 26th and the 2nd Session begins July 5th through July 20th.**

Prom and After Glo - Friday, May 18, 2018 Seniors Not In Classes

Prom Night!

The Prom will be from 7:45 P.M. to 10:45 P.M. at the Convention Center. The Prom tickets will cost \$15.00 per person. The AFTER GLO will begin at 12:00 midnight at the Convention Center (doors open at 11:30 P.M.) and terminate on Saturday, May 19th 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 attire 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 - Continued

Afterglow

Prom and AFTER GLO tickets will be sold **May 1st through May 17th from 7:15 A.M. to 7:45 A.M. in A214.** 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 and Mr. McGinnis's office starting on April 7th and **MUST BE RETURNED BY MAY 7, 2018. ALL AAHS STUDENTS &* APPROVED GUESTS MUST HAVE PHOTO IDENTIFICATION TO BE ADMITTED TO THE PROM AND /OR AFTER GLO.**

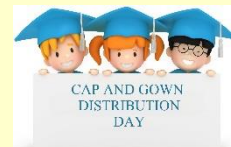
Students who owe after-school detention or Saturday detention cannot attend the Prom/AFTER GLO. All detentions **MUST** be made up two (2) days prior to the day you purchase your ticket(s). Any student with five (5) demerits, or on any type of extracurricular probation, cannot attend the Prom/AFTER GLO. 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, May 21st.

REMEMBER:

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

Distribution of Caps and Gowns and Elementary Walk Thursday, May 31, 2018 - Auxiliary Gym



SENIORS DISMISSED AT 10:30 A.M.

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.**

Seniors who are interested are invited to participate in an Elementary Graduation Walk. Seniors will report to the AAHS Fieldhouse following cap and gown distribution. Seniors will be divided according to the elementary school they attended during their elementary school years. A bus will transport these students to their home elementary school. The 2018 Graduates will walk the halls one last time of where their educational career began, their academic foundation started and lifelong friendships formed.

Upon walking the halls of their elementary school; students will then be transported to the AAJHS where they can walk the halls, be greeted by students, and say good-bye to their former teachers. Once they are done, seniors will be directed to the AAJHS Gym and be dismissed one last time.

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”.

Collection of School Materials - Grades 10, 11 & 12 - Friday, May 25, 2018



Seniors are to return books, locks, athletic equipment, etc. These items may be returned on Friday, May 25th - 1st through 7th periods. Fines will be issued for ALL materials NOT returned by the close of school on May 25th.

FRIDAY, JUNE 1, 2018 - SENIORS NOT IN CLASS

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 3:00 p.m. on June 1st may delay receipt of diploma.



Commencement Service - Friday, June 1, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

The Commencement Service will be held on June 1st 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 1st. 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 1; girls to CAFETERIA 2; 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 2018 a dignified, solemn, and memorable experience.

Distribution of Diplomas, Report Cards and Graduation Awards - Monday, June 4, 2018

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 them to return it when they pick up their 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 Photos

Photographers from **The Film Center** in Altoona will be taking individual pictures of the graduates as they receive their diploma certificates during Commencement. Parents and students will have the option of ordering photos at Mansion Park after the ceremony. They can also place orders at The Film Center in the Pleasant Valley Shopping Center or through their [website](http://www.thefilmcenter.net). (www.thefilmcenter.net) The cost for one (1) photo will be **\$8.95** plus tax. A discount will be offered if multiple photos are purchased.