

NORTH HUNTERDON HIGH SCHOOL

Dr. Gregory Cottrell
Principal

Ms. Alexa Freguetti
Athletic Director



Assistant Principals
Mr. John Deutsch
Ms. Stacy Ditze
Mr. Timothy Flynn
Mr. Chris Maslonka
Mr. Robert Pellechio

April 2024

Dear North Hunterdon Parents, Guardians, and Seniors:

As June 11th rapidly approaches, I am very excited about the upcoming graduation ceremony for the Class of 2024. Four years at North Hunterdon High School have gone by quickly. Our senior class is preparing to graduate and move forward into colleges, specialized training, the military, and the workforce. I am pleased to invite you to the graduation ceremony for the Class of 2024. The graduation ceremony is a dignified event that marks this most important transition in our students' young lives. We are proud of their achievements and will honor them as a class and as individuals on Tuesday, June 11, 2024, at 10:30 a.m. outdoors on Singley Field or in the Main Gym in the event of inclement weather. The following information is to help you navigate this process and ensure you are informed of the schedule of events.

Senior Transition Meeting:

To be given a cap and gown and placed in the graduation lineup, all prospective graduates will meet with the counseling department as a group for a final review during their Health/PE class before graduation. During this scheduled time, the counselors will review all the requirements needed to participate in the graduation ceremony.

At this transition meeting, all seniors must be prepared to review the following items with their counselor:

- All obligations for lost books, calculators, etc., must be shown as "paid" by May 10, 2024, and the Senior Survey in SCOIR, indicating the student's post-high school plans, must be completed.
- Counselors will review the appropriate dress and behavior for the ceremony.
- Graduation Contract must be signed and turned in to the counselor (see the contract on the last page).

We hope the transition meeting will assist our students in moving forward smoothly into their futures. Also, please be aware of the following:

- **Seniors who wish to attend graduation must attend both graduation practices on Thursday, June 6th, from 1:00-3:00 p.m. and Friday, June 7th, from 1:00-3:00 p.m. following final exams. If a rain date is needed, practice will be held from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Monday, June 10th.**
- As soon as possible after the conclusion of the graduation ceremony on June 11th, new graduates should proceed to the Courtyard to pick up their actual diplomas to be placed in the empty diploma cover received during the ceremony.
- Any diplomas that are left after the ceremony will be secured in the Counseling office until the Counseling staff is available during the summer. The Counseling office may be contacted at (908) 713-4130.

For the most up-to-date graduation information, please visit:

<https://www.nhvweb.net/nhhs/home/senior-events-and-information-class-of-2024/>

To Parents and Relatives:

On this special day, it is important that parents/guardians, grandparents, relatives, and friends share in the experience and recognize the graduate's accomplishment. All families deserve to hear the name of their graduate announced. For that reason, it is necessary that parents and students hold their applause until all students have had the opportunity to be recognized. Also, DO NOT bring air horns or other noisemakers to the ceremony. The ceremony is filmed and live-streamed; excess noise ruins the video's sound quality. Please be courteous so that all graduates are properly acknowledged.

To Graduating Seniors:

This ceremony is a student activity, so graduating seniors are not required to attend, but we hope you will all choose to participate. However, if you intend to do anything that takes attention away from the ceremony or the person who is receiving their diploma, please do not attend. Every graduating student deserves the same recognition. All families deserve the pleasure of hearing their graduate's name read in the presence of all attending. Your consideration for all those attending graduation is appreciated.

To maintain a professional and dignified atmosphere, graduating seniors should not be disruptive during the graduation ceremony. Distracting items such as beach balls and balloons take the focus away from the students who are receiving their diplomas. **The Code of Conduct remains in full force as this is a student activity. Students whose behavior impinges on the enjoyment of others will be removed from the ceremony and will not receive their diploma. The diploma will be held for a minimum of thirty days after graduation. After that time period is up, a conference with the student and parent will be required with the administration before the diploma is conferred.** Obviously, we hope that these measures will not be necessary and that our graduates will conduct themselves in a manner that will make their families proud.

Graduation Details:

- Students who are NOT planning to participate in the graduation ceremony should email Mr. Anthony Petraglia, Director of Student Activities, at apetraglia@nhvweb.net no later than May 13, 2024. Students not attending graduation may pick up their diploma in the Counseling office during summer Counseling hours. Please call ahead of time for hours. Please be sure to bring a photo ID with you.
- No senior is required to take part in the graduation ceremony. However, to be included in the graduation ceremony, seniors must attend the graduation practices on June 6th and June 7th (or the rain date of June 10th). Attendance will be taken at graduation practices.
- Employers are more cooperative with releasing students from work to attend graduation practice when given appropriate notice. Please notify employers as soon as possible about graduation practices.
- All outstanding obligations must be paid by May 10th. Check with Ms. Ellis in Room 239 to see if you have any outstanding obligations. Parents may also check obligations in ASPEN. You will find information on the "Family" top tab, then select "Transactions." Please check cafeteria obligations in PaySchools and contact Mrs. Rachel Saxton at rsaxton@nhvweb.net with any questions.
- Caps and gowns will be provided only after all obligations have been fulfilled. Seniors will receive their caps and gowns at the graduation practice on Friday, June 7th. The gowns will look better if they are ironed at home before the ceremony.
- As this is a formal occasion, graduates should wear professional attire under their graduation gowns. Flat shoes are recommended for safety. Flowers, corsages, or jewelry cannot be displayed on the academic gown.
- Graduates may bring a supply of hairpins, tape, or safety pins, as they will be needed to secure caps and/or collars.
- Graduation Caps: Only the flat top area of the mortarboard may be decorated. Nothing other than the graduation tassel may hang down from any of the sides of the cap. Decorations must be flat on the surface of the cap. 3-D creations are prohibited. (Graduation caps are subject to approval in advance of the ceremony.)
- During the Pledge of Allegiance, National Anthem, and Alma Mater, caps should be removed unless

they are pinned to the graduate's hair. Please put them back on at the conclusion of the music.

- As seniors enter the field or gym, the tassel should be on the student's **right side**. The tassel should be shifted to the left after the diploma has been conferred.
- Graduating students may not carry anything with them during the ceremony.
- Any student participating in pranks, inappropriate behavior, or suspected of drug/alcohol use will be immediately escorted from the field and not permitted to return. This rule shall apply to the processional and the ceremony.

Graduation Practices:

On Thursday, June 6th, immediately following final exams, all seniors should report to Cafeteria B. There will be a brief meeting, and lunch will be provided. At this time, the first graduation practice will take place, weather permitting, indoors or outdoors. On Friday, June 7th, immediately following the last final exam, all seniors should report to Cafeteria B for lunch, and then we will hold our second graduation practice. It is our hope that only two days of practice will be needed to prepare for the ceremony. If a rain date is needed for practice, it will occur on June 10th from 1:00 pm-3:00 pm. As the date approaches, more information about graduation practice will be sent to seniors.

Graduation Ceremony and Inclement Weather:

The graduation ceremony will be conducted on Singley Field; however, in the event of inclement weather, the ceremony will be held in the Main Gym. Space in the Main Gym is quite limited, so we will offer additional seating in the Theater, where the graduation ceremony can be viewed remotely. In addition, we will again offer a live feed of the graduation ceremony, which is accessible from our website.

Tickets:

Graduation tickets will be mailed to all senior parents in mid-May. You will receive two green tickets for seating on the field (only valid for the outdoor ceremony) and four yellow tickets for admission to the seating in the bleachers (valid for both the outdoor and indoor ceremonies). If additional tickets are needed, students must see fellow classmates for extras. Please consult the North Hunterdon High School website for further information.

I look forward to seeing you on this special day and celebrating our graduates' achievements!

Respectfully,



Greg Cottrell, Ed.D.
Principal

Enclosed:
Additional Information
Graduation Contract

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

SPECIAL NEEDS:

If your family currently holds an NJ State Handicap placard numbered permit, please proceed to any handicapped parking spot. Make sure the permit is visible, hanging from the rearview mirror in the front of your car. Handicapped parking spaces are behind the Singley Field scoreboard in the District Office parking lot. We will have golf carts to shuttle individuals needing assistance to the field.

If you do not have a state handicap parking permit and require special parking accommodations, please email Ms. Ellen Anderson, eanderson@nhvweb.net, to let her know. We will call down your senior student to pick up a permit during the school day, which you will use to access the District Office parking lot.

PLEASE NOTE- AWARDS/RECOGNITION:

The Board of Education's policy is to recognize the valedictorian and salutatorian of the graduating class. In addition, students are recognized at the Senior Awards Program, at graduation, on our website, and in selected local publications. Class rank, academic honors, and athletic awards may be referenced. This information will be released without specific permission. If you wish to prohibit releasing any of this information, you may contact the Counseling Office in writing. Please specifically state what information you would like withheld.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE GRADUATION CEREMONY:

Graduation Day - Tuesday, June 11, 2024

- Seniors report at 9:00 a.m. Line-up will begin at 9:45 a.m.
- Students are reminded to be prompt. The ceremony will commence at 10:30 a.m.
- When seniors arrive that morning, all parents, relatives, and friends are asked to find their seats and not visit the line-up area.
- Additional parking will be available off-site at Bundt Park. Bus transportation from this site will be available. Shuttle schedules will be communicated at a later date.

Graduation Tickets - will be mailed separately in May.

ADMISSION TO GRADUATION IS BY TICKET ONLY! Sorry, but there can be no exceptions.

In good weather: Use all six tickets: two green and four yellow tickets

- The two green tickets are for seats on Singley Field.
- The four yellow tickets are for the bleachers.

In rainy weather: Use only the four yellow tickets. The green tickets are invalid for indoor seating.

- The four yellow tickets allow seating in the Main Gym.
- No additional tickets will be available due to the confined space and the large number of tickets issued.

If you have any questions about the graduation ceremony itself, please contact Mr. Anthony Petraglia, Director of Student Activities, or our Senior Advisors, Kristin Baratta or Chelsea Manner.

Contact information – Anthony Petraglia (phone) 713-4199 ext. 6357 or apetraglia@nhvweb.net
Kristin Baratta (phone) 713-4199 ext. 6388 or kbaratta@nhvweb.net
Chelsea Manner (phone) 713-4199 ext. 4422 or cmanner@nhvweb.net

Project Graduation

Students attending Project Graduation must check in at 9:15 pm on June 11th at the Courtyard Circle. The students will directly board their assigned motor coach to FunPlex for a night of sober fun with their friends. Many thanks to the PTSA for all of their support. Please [click here](#) for more details and a permission slip. Payment can be made [here](#).

Graduation Photos

Christmas City Studio will attend graduation to photograph all students receiving their diplomas. To view and purchase these pictures, please go to www.christmascitystudio.com, click on Event Candida, and type in the password "nhlions."

Important dates to remember:

Senior Prom - Friday, May 31st at 5:00 pm at SteelStacks in Bethlehem, PA.

Senior and Athletic Awards Night – Monday, June 3rd at 6:30 pm in the North Hunterdon High School Theater.

CLASS OF 2024 GRADUATION CONTRACT:

I understand that my participation in the graduation ceremony is a privilege, not a right. It is a student activity, so attendance is optional. If I choose to attend the graduation ceremony, by checking off these items and signing the form, I am indicating that I agree to the following:

- OBLIGATIONS:** I understand that all obligations to the school for debts, lost books, Chromebooks, etc., must be cleared by May 10, 2024, in order to participate in the graduation ceremony. See Ms. Karen Ellis in Room 239 to pay any outstanding obligations. Checks should be made payable to NHHS Student Activities.
- GRADUATION PRACTICE:** I understand that I must attend all graduation practices: Thursday, June 6th, Friday, June 7th, and Monday, June 10th, if a rain date is needed. I am aware that any student not attending practices cannot take part in the ceremony.
- GRADUATION ATTIRE:** Underneath the graduation gown, I will wear appropriate clothing. **Graduates should dress in cap and gown over professional business attire. Before graduating, students wear their tassel on the right side of their mortarboard (cap).** Business professional attire may consist of dress shoes, dress pants, dress shirts, ties, dresses or blouses, and skirts with dress shoes (no purses on the field). Students should not wear jeans, tennis shoes, flip-flops, shorts, or T-shirts, regardless of color, style, newness, or cost. The attire will be checked before the lineup. (Any senior who has a question about appropriate dress should contact his/her School Counselor.)
- SENIOR TRANSITION MEETING:** I understand that I must attend the transition meeting, which will be held during a Health/PE class, and complete the Senior Survey in SCOIR.
- SUSPENSION:** I am aware that any behavior between now and the end of the school year that results in suspension from school may jeopardize my participation in senior activities and graduation.
- REMOVAL FROM THE GRADUATION CEREMONY:** Families attending graduation deserve to enjoy the graduation ceremony without disruption. I am aware that it is disrespectful to other students and their families to use noise makers, toss balloons around, or do anything that disrupts the ceremony. I understand that if I participate in any disruptive activities, I will be removed from the graduation ceremony and not allowed to return. Students who appear to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol fall under reasonable suspicion statutes. Police officers will handle the situation if needed.
- UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR:** I understand that students who participate in pranks, fights, or other unacceptable behavior in the last month of school risk being barred from the graduation ceremony.

Student: I have read and agree to abide by the above guidelines for Graduation 2024.

Student Name: (print legibly) _____

Student Signature _____ **Date** _____

Parent/Guardian: The above-named student has my permission to attend graduation. I have read the information above and understand the requirements for attending graduation, including but not limited to dress code and any attempts to disrupt the graduation ceremony. I understand that participation in graduation is a privilege, not a right, and students will be removed from the graduation ceremony if their behavior is inappropriate.

Parent/Guardian Name: (print legibly) _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ **Date** _____

School Counselor Signature: _____ **Date** _____

Turn the completed form into your School Counselor during your senior transition meeting.