



HIGHTSTOWN HIGH SCHOOL
Reaching New Heights of Excellence

CLASS OF 2019-GRADUATION NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents/Guardians and Graduating Seniors:

This newsletter contains important information about year-end events and activities. The Graduation Ceremony will take place at the CURE Insurance Arena, 81 Hamilton Avenue, in Trenton, New Jersey 08611 at 2:30pm on Friday, June 21, 2019. Additional details are included in this newsletter. In cooperation with students, staff and administration, procedures and guidelines have been developed for our year-end activities and we ask that both students and parents/guardians review this information carefully. A list of important dates has been attached as the last page of this document.

Please note: Due to our 2:30pm Commencement Ceremony, and to ensure that our graduating senior students arrive at CURE Insurance Arena safely and on time for Commencement, HHS will provide mandatory busing for graduating students from HHS to CURE Arena. The Ceremony will begin promptly at 2:30pm, no exceptions.

My expectation is that seniors will maintain proper decorum and finish their careers at HHS in a positive manner. Thank you for your attention and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Dennis M. Vinson, Jr.
Principal

SENIOR CLASS EVENT/TRIP:

June 4, 2019 – Senior Dinner/Dance Cruise – The Spirit of New York - 4:00pm-11:00pm. Mandatory Roundtrip Busing for attending Senior Students – departs Lincoln Harbor, Weehawken, NJ. K. Ostrowski and E. Petrushun, Senior Class Advisors.

SENIOR AWARDS NIGHT:

Hightstown High School is continuing the tradition of giving awards at a ceremony separate from graduation. **Senior Awards Night will be held on June 11, 2019**, in the Auditorium. The ceremony

will begin **promptly** at 7:00pm. (**Designated senior award winners and their parents will receive an invitation.**)

OBLIGATIONS:

Any debt or material a student owes to HHS is considered an "obligation." All obligations must be cleared before a diploma may be awarded. This includes textbooks, workbooks, library books, etc., as well as athletic equipment, class sales monies, and any fines. All seniors must be certain that any obligations are cleared **by June 21 (cash, certified check or money order only)**. *Students may not participate in Graduation practice (June 13) or the ceremony (June 21) if they have any outstanding obligations.*

NOTE: All Seniors must return their chromebooks and chargers; no exceptions. Chromebooks and Chargers will be collected in the Library during lunch periods and after school until 2:30pm from Tuesday, June 11 through Tuesday, June 18. Any seniors not complying with this directive will be regarded as having an outstanding obligation and will not be cleared to receive their diploma and participate in the Graduation Ceremony.

REHEARSAL:

Rehearsal will be held on the morning of June 13, 2019. Students should report to their first period class. The rehearsal will last until approximately noon. **Members of the graduating class not reporting to the rehearsal will not be able to participate in graduation exercises unless the Principal is notified in writing prior to June 6.** Graduating students will be **bused** to and from the CURE Insurance Arena for the *rehearsal*. **Students are not permitted to use their own vehicles for the rehearsal.**

SENIOR PROM:

June 14 **Senior Prom** – Student Assembly at 11:30am; Dismissal at 12:00 Noon
Promenade Photo Event – 4:00-5:30pm – HHS Football Field
Hyatt Regency/Princeton 6:00-11:00pm
After Prom – Midnight to 5:00am – at HHS

FINAL EXAMS:

Final exams will be administered **June 17, 18, 19, 20 and 21**. June 21 is the designated day for make-up exams. **Exams will not be administered before June 17. Only those seniors who have taken all of their required exams and fulfilled their course requirements with passing averages will be permitted to participate in the Graduation Ceremony.**

CAPS AND GOWNS:

Caps and gowns will be distributed by Ms. Ostrowski to all members of the Graduating Class in the Auditorium on **Wednesday, June 19 and Thursday, June 20** between the hours of 12:00pm and 1:00pm.

Seniors must have CLEARED all obligations in their House Offices prior to picking up their caps and gowns.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE: If your student has not yet ordered or paid for a cap and gown for the 2019 Graduation Ceremony, please see Ms. Ostrowski in Counseling **ASAP** for measurement and payment of your **\$40.00 fee**. The \$40.00 fee includes \$30.00 for the Cap, Gown and Tassel **plus a late fee** of \$10.00. **NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE.** Payment may be either in **cash or money order** made payable to HHS-Class of 2019; no personal checks will be accepted.

CLASS PICTURE and GRADUATE BREAKFAST:

Graduates will report to the HHS Cafeteria on Friday, June 21 at 10:00am. The class picture will be taken outdoors (weather permitting) or in the Main Gym immediately following the breakfast. **Therefore, all graduates must bring their caps and gowns to school with them.**

An order form will be mailed to the graduate's home by the photographer, Island Photography. The cost of the picture will depend on the size or package you choose from the information sent to you.

GRADUATION PROGRAM:

Graduation exercises for the Class of 2019 will be held at the **CURE Insurance Arena** on Friday, June 21, 2019, beginning promptly at **2:30pm**, no exceptions.

HHS will provide mandatory busing to CURE Arena for all graduating students and, upon arrival at CURE, will report to their assigned gowning area, with their caps and gowns.

Graduation exercises take approximately one and one-half hours. **Tickets are not required for admittance to the ceremony. Parking is free and unlimited.**

Directions to the CURE Insurance Arena:

Via NJ Turnpike: Take the NJ Turnpike South to exit 7A. Follow signs for 195 West. Take 195 West to Route 129 North – Trenton. Take Route 129 North to Hamilton Avenue. Make left onto Hamilton Avenue and you will see the CURE Insurance Arena.

Via Route 130: Take Route 130 South to Route 195 West to Route 129 North to Hamilton Avenue. Make a left onto Hamilton Avenue. CURE Insurance Arena is on Hamilton Avenue and Route 129.

PHOTOGRAPHS:

For your convenience and to minimize any distractions from this decorous event, we will have **Island Photography**, a professional photographer, on hand to take pictures of each graduate at the appropriate time. If you would like a direct link for your photos within 48 hours simply go to <http://orders.islandphoto.com/Apps/RegisterGraduates.aspx> to provide your email information.

Please Note: Your email registration is required at least five days in advance of the ceremony to receive your proofs by link. Images will be posted within 72 hours of the ceremony. All inquiries should be made to Island Photography at (800) 869-0908. Purchase is optional.

DISTRIBUTION OF DIPLOMAS:

Each graduate will receive an empty blue leather Diploma folder when walking across the stage. Diplomas will be distributed to Graduates immediately following the Ceremony. Graduates should report to the original gowning area where they will be met by their Assistant Principals to receive their HHS Diplomas. No parents or guests will be permitted in the gowning areas. Students should plan to meet their parents and guests in the **UPPER PARKING LOT AFTER DIPLOMA DISTRIBUTION.**

CODE OF CONDUCT

The following guidelines were developed in order for Hightstown High School's Commencement to be a momentous occasion. We believe if all participants and guests continue to adhere to these guidelines, we will all enjoy this ceremony.

BEHAVIOR

Since graduation ceremonies are special, dignified occasions, the behavior of all in attendance -- participants as well as guests -- should reflect this concept.

The following rules and regulations were developed by Hightstown High School (HHS) for graduation rehearsals and the commencement ceremony. Failure to follow any of the guidelines will keep a student from participating in the graduation ceremony, or cause a delay in actually obtaining a diploma. If a student decides not to participate, he/she can get his/her diploma at the HHS Principal's Office by calling the office at 609-443-7738 extension 1159 after the graduation date. Non-participants are not permitted to attend as spectators. However, if a student does participate, he/she must follow the following rules and regulations:

- 1. All students must attend the rehearsal or they cannot participate in the ceremony. The rehearsal is held during the school day and attendance is mandatory.**
- 2. All clothing must be suitable for the graduation ceremony as determined by the HHS Administrators. NO inappropriate accessories will be permitted.**
- 3. Gentlemen must wear a dress shirt with a collar (white preferred, a tie, long dress pants, socks and regular dress shoes, (slacks, socks and shoes must be a dark color) suitable for this ceremony as determined by the HHS Administrators.**
- 4. Ladies must wear a dress or skirt and blouse and dress shoes, suitable for this ceremony as determined by the HHS Administrators. No purses are permitted at the ceremony.**
- 5. Sneakers, flip flops, work shoes or bare feet are not permitted.**
- 6. Caps and gowns may not have anything attached to or on them. Both cap and gown must be worn by all participants.**
- 7. Any senior who arrives at rehearsal or graduation and who smells of alcohol or is under the influence of alcohol/drugs will not be allowed to enter or remain. Should this happen, the police will be contacted and the parents will be notified.**

- 8. Anyone who brings, or attempts to bring, any inappropriate item(s) to the graduation ceremony will be asked to leave the site immediately, whether such items are discovered before or during the ceremony. Inappropriate items include, but are not limited to, any kind of inflatable item, bottle caps, fireworks, water pistols, balls, confetti, etc., or anything judged to be inappropriate by Staff or Administration. The HHS Administration will have the final say on what is defined as inappropriate.**
- 9. No electronic equipment of any kind is allowed on the floor of the arena. This includes, but is not limited to, cell phones, cameras, iPods, and games.**
- 10. Any immature behavior during any part of the ceremony, including disrespect to participants and speakers, will lead to immediate dismissal from the ceremony. If absolutely necessary, the local police on duty will be asked for assistance.**
- 11. Candidates for graduation are to accept their diplomas in a dignified manner.**
- 12. Mandatory busing to CURE Arena will be provided by HHS for all graduating students. Commencement Ceremony on Friday, June 21, 2019 will begin promptly at 2:30pm.**
- 13. Graduates will gown at the CURE Insurance Arena with the assistance of faculty advisors.**
- 14. The graduation ceremony is a special occasion and requires that nothing detract from the solemnity of the moment. The following are NOT to be worn/carried/used: hats, buttons, signs, sunglasses, pocketbooks, cell phones, iPods, games, beach balls, bubbles, flowers, balloons, cameras, corsages, pins, jewelry or other objects on the cap and gown, sneakers, food, frisbees, and any other objects inappropriate for the ceremony.**





June 2019 – HHS Graduation Important Dates

- June 4** Senior Dinner/Dance Cruise – Spirit of NY – 4:00pm-11:00 pm
Note: Mandatory HHS busing to and from Lincoln Harbor, Weehawken, NJ
- June 11** Senior Awards Night – Recipients by Invitation
- June 11 – 18** All obligations must be cleared in order for students to participate in Rehearsal and Commencement.
- NOTE:** All Seniors must return their chromebooks and chargers; no exceptions. Chromebooks and Chargers will be collected in the Library during lunch periods and after school until 2:30pm from Tuesday, June 11 through Tuesday, June 18. Any seniors not complying with this directive will be regarded as having an outstanding obligation and will not be cleared to receive their diploma and participate in the Graduation Ceremony.
- June 13** Graduation Rehearsal/Cure Arena – 9:30am-11:30am – Mandatory Busing
All obligations must be cleared in order for students to participate in Rehearsal and Commencement.
- June 14** Senior Prom – Student Assembly at 11:30am; Dismissal at 12:00 Noon
Promenade Photo Event – 4:00-5:30pm – HHS Football Field
Hyatt Regency/Princeton 6:00-11:00pm
After Prom – Midnight to 5:00am – at HHS
- June 17-21** Final Exams
- June 19 & 20** Distribution of Caps & Gowns – Auditorium from 12:00pm – 1:00pm
- June 21** Senior Arrival at HHS – 10:00 am – Breakfast and Senior Photo;
Followed by Mandatory busing of graduates to CURE Arena
- Commencement Ceremony** – Mandatory student busing to CURE;
depart PROMPTLY from HHS at 12:30pm; no exceptions
- Commencement Ceremony** – CURE Arena – 2:30pm