

# ATHOLTON HIGH SCHOOL

6520 Freetown Road  
Columbia, Maryland 21044  
(410) 313-7065

Dear Senior,

This packet provides helpful information you will need during your final weeks at Atholton High School. We are giving you this information so you may begin to make plans for your senior activities. Attendance at graduation rehearsals is **mandatory** if you wish to participate in the graduation ceremony. Please share this information with your parents or guardians.

All questions may be directed to Ms. Bonomo-Thomas and Ms. Kelly, Graduation Coordinators at 410-313-7065 or via e-mail at [jeannette\\_bonomo-thomas@hcpss.org](mailto:jeannette_bonomo-thomas@hcpss.org), and/or [natalie\\_kelly@hcpss.org](mailto:natalie_kelly@hcpss.org)

<u>DATE</u>		<u>EVENTS FOR 2017</u>
Mon-Friday	April 1 – 27	Online Prom Ticket Sales: <a href="http://ahs.hcpss.org">ahs.hcpss.org</a>
Wednesday	April 19	Senior Crab Feast 6 – 8:30 pm, Cost: \$17, Location: Cafeteria
Friday	April 21	JROTC Awards Ceremony 6 – 9 pm, Location: Howard HS
Mon-Friday	April 24 – 28	Prom and After-Prom Ticket Sales: All Lunch Shifts
Tuesday	April 25	Senior Shadow Day
Tues-Thurs	April 25 – 27	Spring Music Concerts 7 pm
Monday	May 1	One Night Only, Student Directed Performance 7 pm
Wednesday	May 3	Drama Department Banquet: Dinner 6:30 pm; Awards 7 pm
Thursday	May 4	Robotics Banquet 5:30, Location: Cafeteria
Tuesday	May 9	Percussion Ensemble Recital 7 pm
Wednesday	May 10	Senior Class Picnic 4:30-6 pm, Centennial Park Pavilion H
Wednesday	May 10	Music Department Banquet 7 pm
Thurs & Fri	May 11-12	Spring Dance Concerts 7 pm, Cost \$8
Saturday	May 13	PROM, Turf Valley 8 pm – 11:30 pm, Cost: \$70 AFTER PROM RP3 @ YMCA, Ellicott City 12:30 am – 3:30 am
Mon & Tues	May 15 & 16	Breakfast and Senior Celebration Rehearsals
Tuesday	May 16	Spring Sports Awards Ceremony 5 – 9 pm
Wednesday	May 17	Commencement Rehearsal, Class Photo & Senior Celebration
Monday	May 22	Commencement Ceremony @ Merriweather Post Pavilion at 11 am

All student obligations must be paid in full before students receive prom and/or graduation tickets. Debts should be paid in cash (no personal checks) directly to Mrs. McIntyre in the Front Office.

All seniors are required to attend school through **Wednesday, May 17, 2017**. Final examinations will be given during the class periods on the dates indicated and are **mandatory**. Students must attend all classes **unless they provide a written early dismissal request from their parents or guardians**.

## MON, MAY 15

PD 1 REHEARSAL  
PD 2 EXAM  
PD 3 EXAM  
PD 4B EXAM  
PD 5 CLASS  
PD 6 CLASS

## TUES, MAY 16

PD 1 REHEARSAL  
PD 2 REHEARSAL  
PD 3 REHEARSAL  
PD 4A EXAM  
PD 5 EXAM  
PD 6 EXAM

## WED, MAY 17

PD 1 EXAM  
PD 2 REHEARSAL  
PD REHEARSAL  
PD 4 CLASS PHOTO/LUNCH  
PD 5 SENIOR CELEBRATION  
PD 6 SENIOR CELEBRATION

**MONDAY, MAY 15 (PERIOD 1) & TUESDAY, MAY 16 (PERIODS 1-3):**

**SENIOR CELEBRATION REHEARSALS**

Seniors must report to the **auditorium** for these rehearsals. Seniors will receive their *caps, gowns* and *graduation tickets* at the rehearsals provided they have satisfied all school obligations. The **Tuesday, May 16** rehearsal begins in the cafeteria and will include a light continental breakfast provided by the junior class.

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 17: SENIORS LAST DAY**

PD 1      Period 1 Exam

PDS 2-3      **COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY REHEARSAL [Cap/gown required]**

Seniors must report to the **auditorium**. This mandatory rehearsal prepares students for the Commencement Ceremony at Merriweather Post Pavilion. Cap/gown is needed during this rehearsal.

PD 4      **SENIOR CLASS PHOTO [Cap/gown required]**

The senior class picture in cap and gown will be taken in the main gym. Seniors will have an opportunity to purchase the class picture from Lifetouch. **Checks should be made payable to: Lifetouch.** Order forms will be distributed at the Senior Celebration rehearsal. Return completed order forms during the Commencement Ceremony rehearsal on **Wednesday, May 17.**

PD 4      **C-LUNCH**

All seniors will eat during C Lunch in the cafeteria. Following lunch seniors will report to the main gym to line up for the procession.

12:15pm      **SENIOR CELEBRATION [Cap/gown required]**

Following lunch, **ALL** seniors will participate in the Senior Celebration. Caps/gowns are required along with comfortable shoes since there will be a lot of walking during the rehearsals.

**MONDAY, MAY 22, 2017 AT 11:00 AM AT  
MERRIWEATHER POST PAVILION**

**COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY**

**Graduates must arrive by 10:25 am** with *cap and gown* and *dressed in appropriate attire*. Graduates must report directly to their designated area and are not allowed to walk around the pavilion in their caps and gowns prior to the ceremony. **The scheduled length of the graduation ceremony is approximately two (2) hours.**

## **GRADUATION INSTRUCTIONS**

1. Participation in the graduation ceremony is not required to receive a diploma. **Parents/guardians must submit a written request for non-participation to Mrs. Hutchens by Friday, April 28, 2017.**
2. Each graduate will receive 10 tickets to the graduation ceremony. For additional tickets, please **submit a letter (typed or clearly printed) with the student's name and number of additional tickets requested to the Front Office by Friday, April 28, 2017.** Late requests will not be accepted.
3. Although participation in the commencement ceremony is voluntary, **attendance at ALL rehearsals is MANDATORY in order to participate. Students must be on time and stay for the full practice.**
4. Howard County School System policies and school rules remain in effect and will be enforced. Please do not jeopardize your privilege to receive a diploma. Cooperation and appropriate behavior during rehearsals is mandatory to participate in the commencement ceremony.
5. Cap/gown is the REQUIRED attire for the **Senior Class Photo, Senior Celebration and Commencement Ceremony.**
  - a. Write your name in the cap (space provided inside the top of the cap) and gown (on the tag) as soon as you remove it from the package.
  - b. Seniors should wear their caps straight on their heads and the tassel on the RIGHT side of the cap.
  - c. Some of the caps will not fit easily with all hair fashions. Adjust your hair fashion accordingly.
  - d. Seniors should wear attire and shoes that are appropriate for a formal ceremony. No sneakers or flip-flops.
6. When you receive your cap and gown please hang it up! Wrinkles do not come out when the gowns stay in the bags. Write your name on the inside of the cap and gown. **Do not iron your gown.**
7. During the ceremony:
  - a. When crossing the stage, walk briskly.
  - b. Posture: straight - head up - proud appearance - smile - show a sense of pride.
  - c. Spacing: 6 to 8 feet - while walking.
  - d. Stand for the National Anthem. Gentlemen remove their caps.
8. Parents who **are permanent employees for the Howard County Public School System (in any capacity)** may present their child's diploma at *Atholton High School's 2017 Commencement Ceremony*. Request forms are located on the AHS website and are **due to Ms. Bonomo-Thomas/Ms. Kelly by Friday, April 28, 2017.**
9. Handicapped parking spaces are provided at Merriweather Post Pavilion for handicapped drivers with a state tag. Neither the pavilion nor the schools provide wheelchairs; guests are encouraged to bring their own to simplify the walk. To use handicapped parking or to drop off a guest at the backstage and then to return to park, cars should enter the pavilion grounds from **Little Patuxent Parkway**. Entering the pavilion by **Broken Land Parkway** offers flatter terrain for less able walkers and those pushing wheelchairs. **South Entrance Road** offers a hillier walk. The following link provides a map of MPP parking but should be reviewed up to graduation day in the event that traffic patterns change: <http://www.hcpss.org/schools/commencement/accessibility-and-parking/>.
10. With your assistance, we can make this the best graduation for AHS students, families and community!
11. Questions: Ms. Bonomo-Thomas or Ms. Kelly, Graduation Coordinators at 410-313-7065 or via e-mail at [jeannette\\_bonomo-thomas@hcpss.org](mailto:jeannette_bonomo-thomas@hcpss.org) or [natalie\\_kelly@hcpss.org](mailto:natalie_kelly@hcpss.org).