

ATHOLTON HIGH SCHOOL

6520 Freetown Road = Columbia, MD 21044 = 410-313-7065 = (F) 410-313-7078 = <http://ahs.hcpss.org>

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 that you may make plans for your senior activities. Attendance at rehearsals is **mandatory** if you wish to participate in the commencement ceremony. Please share this information with your families. If you do not wish to participate in the ceremony, please see instructions.

Questions about commencement? Email Ms. Bonomo-Thomas, Commencement Coordinator, jeannette_bonomo-thomas@hcpss.org. Questions about other senior events? Contact the appropriate sponsor. Questions about caps/gowns/announcements/etc.? Call 1-800-BALFOUR.

<u>Dates</u>	<u>2019 Events</u>
April 25	County-wide Army JROTC Awards Ceremony (selected personnel) 6:30pm, Howard High School
April 27	One Night Only, Student-Directed One Act Plays 7:00pm
May 1	Orchestra Spring Concert 7:00-9:00pm
May 2	Band Spring Concert 7:00-9:00pm
May 3	Senior Shadow Day (Forms due by April 30)
May 3	JROTC Raider Battalion Change of Command and Awards Ceremony 12:30-2:10pm, Auditorium
May 4	Prom, Arundel Mills Preserve Hotel, Cost: \$70 Ticket Sales: online via ahs.hcpss.org >Online Payments and at lunch shifts as announced Post-Prom Party @ Columbia Gym, Clarksville (Tickets required; bus transportation from Prom)
May 8	Choir Spring Concert 7:00-9:00pm
May 14	Music Department Awards Banquet 7:00-9:00pm
May 15	Space RAIDers Robotics Banquet 6:00-8:30pm
May 17-18	Dance Spring Concerts 7:00pm both nights and 3:00pm on May 18 only
May 20	Senior Class Picnic, advanced ticket purchase required, Centennial Park Pavilion H
May 20	Spring Sports Awards Ceremony
May 21	Drama Department Banquet 6:00-8:20pm
May 22	Senior Awards Ceremony, 7:00pm
May 20-22	Last Days of School for Seniors (Please see schedule below.)

All student obligations must be paid in full before students receive prom and graduation tickets.

Debts should be paid in cash (no personal checks) to Mrs. McIntyre in the Front Office, by May 17.

All seniors are required to attend school through **Wednesday, May 22, 2019**. Final examinations will be given during the class periods on the dates indicated and are **mandatory**. Students must attend all classes each day **unless they provide a written early dismissal request from their parents or guardians**.

<u>Monday, May 20</u>	<u>Tuesday, May 21</u>	<u>Wednesday, May 22</u>	<u>Thursday, May 23</u>
Pd 1 <i>SR. MEETING</i>	Pd 1 <i>SR. BREAKFAST</i>	Pd 1 EXAM	<i>No School for Seniors</i>
Pd 2 EXAM	Pd 2 <i>REHEARSAL</i>	Pd 2 <i>REHEARSAL</i>	
Pd 3 EXAM	Pd 3 <i>REHEARSAL</i>	Pd 3 <i>REHEARSAL</i>	<u>Friday, May 24</u>
Pd 4B EXAM	Pd 4A EXAM	Pd 4B <i>SR. LUNCHEON</i>	GRADUATION
Pd 5 Exam Review	Pd 5 EXAM	Pd 5 <i>REHEARSAL</i>	12:00 NOON
Pd 6 Exam Review	Pd 6 EXAM	Pd 6 <i>SR. CLASS PHOTO</i>	MERRIWEATHER POST PAVILION

Monday, May 20 (*Period 1*) & Tuesday, May 21 (*Periods 2&3*):

SENIOR MEETING & FIRST COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY REHEARSAL

Seniors must report to the **auditorium** for both sessions. At Monday's meeting, seniors will receive order forms for the senior class photo; Tuesday and Wednesday are the **ONLY** days that these order forms will be collected. Checks should be made payable to: *Lifetouch*. Additional information may be obtained by visiting <http://events.lifetouch.com>.

Tuesday, May 21 (*Period 1*):

7:25am **SENIOR BREAKFAST**

A **light** continental breakfast will be provided by the junior class. Seniors report to the cafeteria.

Wednesday, May 22: *Seniors' Last Day -- BRING CAP/GOWN TO SCHOOL!*

8:20am **SECOND COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY REHEARSAL**

Seniors must report to the **auditorium** following their period 1 exams. This mandatory rehearsal prepares students for the Commencement Ceremony at Merriweather Post Pavilion. Seniors who have met all school obligations will receive their ***graduation tickets*** during rehearsal.

11:00am **SENIOR LUNCHEON**

A catered lunch will be provided to all seniors, during which remaining on campus is **required**. Immediately following lunch, **ALL** seniors will report to the auditorium for the final dress rehearsal for the commencement ceremony.

12:20pm **FINAL DRESS REHEARSAL [Cap/gown required]**

Caps/gowns **MUST** be worn for this rehearsal. Caps must be worn flat on heads. Choose hairstyle accordingly.

1:15pm **SENIOR CLASS PHOTO [Cap/gown required]**

The senior class picture in cap and gown will be taken in the **gymnasium**. Visit <http://events.lifetouch.com> for more details about purchasing the class picture.

7:00pm **SENIOR AWARDS CEREMONY**

Appropriate attire is required. Shorts and/or casual shoes are not appropriate.

Friday, May 24, 2019 at 12:00 noon, Location: Merriweather Post Pavilion

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

Graduates must arrive by 11:10 a.m. with ***cap and gown*** and ***dressed in appropriate attire***. Graduates must report directly to the designated area and are not allowed to walk around the pavilion in their caps and gowns prior to the ceremony. All seniors **MUST** wear appropriately formal attire and shoes. Outfit should be comfortable AND fitting for a semi-formal wedding and/or for a job interview: absolutely **NO** shorts, flip-flops, sneakers, or work boots. Footwear must allow walking down **STEEP** steps.

Lifetouch will be photographing **ALL** graduates, and attendees should remain seated in order to maintain the dignity of the ceremony. Visit <http://events.lifetouch.com> to pre-register and/or to access and share images.

Parking information for students, families, and guests is forthcoming and will be posted online. For updates, monitor <https://www.hcpss.org/commencements/>

The scheduled length of the graduation ceremony is between 90 and 105 minutes.

GRADUATION INSTRUCTIONS

1. Participation in the graduation ceremony is not required to receive a diploma. **Parents must submit a written request for non-participation to Mr. Motley by Friday, May 17, 2019.**
2. Each graduate will receive 10 tickets to the graduation ceremony. For additional tickets, please **submit a letter with the student's name and number of additional tickets requested to Ms. Adkins in the Front Office by Thursday, May 16, 2019.** 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.** Perfect practice makes for a perfect ceremony.
4. Cooperation during rehearsals is mandatory to ensure a successful commencement ceremony for all graduating seniors. Howard County Public School System policies and school rules remain in effect and will be enforced. Please do not jeopardize your privilege to receive a diploma.
5. Cap/gown is the REQUIRED attire for the **Final Dress Rehearsal, Senior Class Photo and Commencement Ceremony.**
 - a. Seniors must write their names in their caps (space provided inside the top of the cap) and gowns (on the tag) immediately upon removing it from the package.
 - b. Seniors must wear their caps straight on their heads and the tassel on the right side of the cap.
 - c. Caps will not fit easily with all hairstyles. Adjust hairstyles accordingly.
 - d. Gowns should be brought up on the shoulders in the back.
 - e. Outfit, including jewelry, should be comfortable AND fitting for a semi-formal wedding and/or for a job interview: absolutely NO shorts, flip-flops, sneakers, or work boots. Footwear must allow walking down STEEP steps.
6. When you receive your cap and gown, please hang it up! Wrinkles do not come out when the gowns stay in the bags. **Do not iron or tumble dry your gown.** To steam out stubborn wrinkles, hang it up while a hot shower runs.
7. During the ceremony:
 - a. When crossing the stage, walk briskly. Maintain 6 to 8 feet of spacing while walking.
 - b. Show a sense of pride with posture straight, head up, a smile and a dignified appearance.
 - c. Remember to stand and remove caps for the National Anthem.
8. Parents who **are permanent employees of the Howard County Public School System** (in any capacity) may present their children's diplomas. Request forms can be found via the AHS website under the Graduation 2019 button and are **due to Ms. Bonomo-Thomas by Friday, April 26, 2019.**
9. Accessible parking spaces are provided at Merriweather Post Pavilion for those with the requisite state-issued tag or state-issued plates. 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. Neither the pavilion nor the schools provide wheelchairs; guests are encouraged to bring their own to simplify the walk. To use accessible parking or to drop off a guest and then return to park, cars should enter the pavilion grounds from **Little Patuxent Parkway.**
10. With your assistance, we can make this the best graduation in Atholton's history!

ATHOLTON HIGH SCHOOL ~ SENIOR CALENDAR ~ CLASS OF 2019 (AS OF 4/23/19)

Bell Schedule	Monday, May 20 (B Day)	Tuesday, May 21 (A Day)	Wednesday, May 22 (B Day—No Raider Time) Last Day for Seniors	Thursday, May 23	Friday, May 24
Period 1 7:25-8:15	SENIOR MEETING	SENIOR BREAKFAST	Senior Exam	NO SCHOOL FOR SENIORS	12:00 NOON
Period 2 8:20-9:10	Senior Exam	COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY REHEARSAL	COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY REHEARSAL		G R A D U A T I O N @ MERRIWEATHER POST PAVILION SENIORS REPORT AT 11:10 AM
Period 3 9:15-10:10	Senior Exam				
Period 4 10:15-12:15	Senior Exam B Day	Senior Exam A Day	SENIOR LUNCHEON @ 11:00 AM		
Period 5 12:20-1:10	Exam Review	Senior Exam	FINAL DRESS REHEARSAL		
Period 6 1:15-2:10	Exam Review	Senior Exam	CLASS PHOTO		

**Senior Class Picnic
May 20
Centennial Park-Pav. H**

**Senior Awards Ceremony
May 22, 7:00pm
AHS Auditorium**

**All seniors are required
to attend school through
Wednesday, May 22,
2019**

**Attendance at ALL
rehearsals is
MANDATORY**

**HCPSS policies will be in
effect for ALL
Senior Activities!**