

# CLASS OF 2024 UPDATES



## Commencement Speakers - **due April 12th at 1pm**

The deadline to submit is **Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup>**, at **1:00pm**. Submissions that are late will not be considered. The information below is also included in the attachment.

Seniors will upload their speech to the Form in Microsoft Word format using HCPS login:

### [Speech Submission](#)

#### HTHS Commencement – May 31, 2024

##### Graduation Speech Submission Information:

###### Who is eligible to submit a speech for consideration?

All graduating seniors

###### How many speeches will be selected?

The number of speeches selected will depend on the number and quality of the submissions.

###### In some schools, only the Valedictorian and Senior Class President speak at graduation. Why is ours different?

Graduation is an important milestone for all graduates, each of whom has a story to tell, and each of whom has successful accomplishments to celebrate. The ceremony is a chance to recognize the school community; Tech's students represent the diversity of trade, industry, and academically focused areas, and the ceremony should reflect this diversity.

###### How will the speeches be selected?

The speeches will be selected by a selection committee comprised of administrators, senior class advisors, school counselors, the Program Specialist, and the English Department member(s).

- o All committee members will read each speech independently.
- o The committee will convene and review/discuss the speeches as a group.

The committee will vote and decide on the number of speeches to accept.

###### What is the timeline for this process?

Seniors received information on **March 8<sup>th</sup>** for review.

Speeches are due by **Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup>** @ 1:00 p.m.

Submit an electronic copy of the speech using the Graduation Speech Form above

- o Ms. Matteson will distribute anonymous copies of the speech to committee members.
- o Committee members will independently review the speeches between **April 15<sup>th</sup>** and **April 23<sup>rd</sup>**.
- o The committee will meet to discuss and select the speeches on **Wednesday, April 24<sup>th</sup>**.
- o Students will be notified no later than **Friday, April 26<sup>th</sup>**.

Students whose speeches are selected will work with the English department to revise/polish/practice speeches prior to graduation. Dates TBD.

###### What are the speech requirements?

**Length:** 2-3 minutes

**Topic/Theme:** student selected but school appropriate

- o Remember – the audience will be filled with young children, parents, and grandparents.

**Format:** Typed, Times New Roman, 12 font, double spaced, 1-inch margins

**Note:** Include a title appropriate to the topic/theme; avoid titles such as "Graduation Speech" or other similarly worded phrases.

## No Sales Fundraiser—**ends April 15th**

If you would like to make a donation without purchasing items, you can do so through your student's School Cash Online account or you can use the link below. This **link can also be shared with any family or community members who are interested**. This No Sale Fundraiser will remain open through April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

### [Make a Donation Here](#)

If you have questions regarding the No Sales Fundraiser, please email Ms. Goldberg ([Michelle.Goldberg@hcps.org](mailto:Michelle.Goldberg@hcps.org)) for assistance.

## Prom—May 11th

Prom will be held on May 11<sup>th</sup> from 7 – 11pm at Martin's Valley Mansion with doors closing to new arrivals at 9pm. **The cost of tickets will be \$85 each**. Students and guests will need to show ID and the School Cash Online receipt when entering the venue.

**Tickets will go on sale to SENIORS on March 14<sup>th</sup> no later than 8:00am.**

**Ticket sales will open to juniors on March 29<sup>th</sup>**. This is during spring break so a specific time of day is not guaranteed. An email from School Cash Online will be sent when the tickets become available for purchase.

Tickets will only be sold using School Cash Online to 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students without obligations. If you have an obligation, a ticket will not be available for you to purchase. **Obligations are due no later than March 20<sup>th</sup>**. If you fulfill an obligation after March 20<sup>th</sup>, you will not have access to purchase a ticket until after spring break and you run the risk of them selling out by then. All students with an obligation were sent an email earlier this week. Students should check their emails to determine if they have an obligation. If you have OBLIGATION related questions, please contact Ms. Fortune at [Margie.Fortune@hcps.org](mailto:Margie.Fortune@hcps.org).

### [School Cash Online](#)

**Ticket sales will be open until they sell out, which will happen.** We cannot make exceptions due to space limitations in the venue.

Current 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade HTHS students must purchase their own tickets, even if they are the guest of another 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade HTHS student.

Anyone else attending prom **MUST** have an approved guest pass as well as a ticket purchased for them. This includes HTHS 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students, any students from other high schools, and guests who have already graduated from high school. The deadline to submit a guest pass was March 11<sup>th</sup>. Guest passes are no longer being accepted. **Turning in a guest pass does NOT mean you purchased a ticket. You must still purchase a ticket for both you and your guest.** It is HIGHLY recommended that you purchase your guests ticket at the same time as you purchase your ticket because you run the risk of tickets selling out if you wait.

**There is reserved seating at the HTHS Prom.** Information regarding table seating arrangements will be emailed to those who purchase prom tickets. Please check your email regularly so you don't miss the seating signup information.

Menu: The Senior Class Officers chose the following menu items:

- ⇒ Appetizer – Fresh Seasonal Fruit
- ⇒ Dinner Buffet Options–
  - ⇒ Chicken Supreme
  - ⇒ Herb Salmon
  - ⇒ Pepper Steak with rice
  - ⇒ Baked Ziti
  - ⇒ Mac n Cheese station (choice of shrimp, bacon, and sausage)
  - ⇒ Vegetable Medley
  - ⇒ Garlic Mashed Potatoes
- ⇒ Dessert Options – Cheesecake and an Ice Cream Sundae bar
- ⇒ Drinks – various sodas, juices, and non-alcoholic frozen drinks

Those with dietary restrictions should complete the form below using their HCPS login information. If a student's guest has dietary restrictions, the HTHS student should fill the form out for their guest. **This information is due by April 21<sup>st</sup> at midnight.**

### [Prom Dietary Restrictions](#)

There will be prom favors and commemorative tickets available at the venue.

Prom Rules:

- ⇒ All HCPS rules and in effect at the Prom.
- ⇒ Appropriate formal attire is required.
- ⇒ There should be no excessive skin showing. Those dressed inappropriately may be asked to cover up, change, or leave by an administrator.
- ⇒ No inappropriate dancing or contact is permitted. Those violating the rule may be asked to leave.
- ⇒ Prom attendees may not leave the building without a chaperone. They may not be permitted to reenter the building.
- ⇒ HTHS students are responsible for their guests.
- ⇒ No parents, extra friends, etc. are permitted at Prom. This is a Valley Mansion Rule.

If you have PROM related questions, please contact Ms. Matteson at [Morgan.Matteson@hcps.org](mailto:Morgan.Matteson@hcps.org) or Ms. Goldberg at [Michelle.Goldberg@hcps.org](mailto:Michelle.Goldberg@hcps.org).

## Senior Final Exam Schedule

- May 20th—A1 and A3 exams
- May 21st—B1 and B3 exams
- May 22nd—A2 and A4 exams
- May 23rd—B2 and B4 exams

## Graduation Announcements

Announcements and other graduation gear can be ordered using the link below! Please note that the senior apparel on the Jostens site is NOT the same as what we designed. There is no order deadline for remaining graduation gear.

### [ALL HTHS Graduation Products Link](#)

If you have questions for Jostens, please contact them directly at <https://www.jostens.com/customer-service/contact-us>

## Class Rings

Class rings are on sale now through the Jostens website. Click the link below to order yours today!

### [Class Ring Ordering](#)

If you have questions for Jostens, please contact them directly at <https://www.jostens.com/customer-service/contact-us>

## Graduation and Awards Ceremony Attire

Graduates are required to wear one of the following combinations:

- ⇒ Dress or skirt colour combination (short or long sleeve). That is completely covered by the graduation gown, natural colour nylons (or none), black dress shoes. The shoes may be heels, wedge, or flat.
- ⇒ Black dress pants, white blouse (short or long sleeve), black dress shoes. The shoes may be heels, wedge, or flat.
- ⇒ Black dress pants, white dress shirt (short or long sleeve), any color necktie (not a bowtie), dark socks, black dress shoes (no boots or sneakers).

Caps and to be unadorned and unaltered, so decorating of the cap is not permitted. The gown will fall somewhere between your knees and mid-calf. The gowns are designed to be loose fitting. The gowns can be ironed on a low to medium heat setting or you can try to de-wrinkle them in a dryer with a damp towel. Also, please don't lose your tassel! We do NOT have extra tassels.

Caps and to be unadorned and unaltered, so decorating of the cap is not permitted. The gown will fall somewhere between your knees and mid-calf. The gowns are designed to be loose fitting. The gowns can be ironed on a low to medium heat setting or you can try to de-wrinkle them in a dryer with a damp towel. Also, please don't lose your tassel! We do NOT have extra tassels.

Stoles will be provided by the organization/club sponsor. Senior class advisors are not involved with supplying cords. Cords purchased from outside organizations are not permitted to be worn during the Senior Awards Ceremony and the Commencement ceremony.

## HTHS Senior Showcase—May 22nd

The Senior Showcase is a time for seniors and their families to come to Tech and show off their senior projects. Seniors will be assigned a time based on their tech area.

Ms. Donlick and the specific tech teachers will reach out with additional information as the date approaches!

## Teachers Academy of Maryland Graduate Spotlight—May 22nd

HCPS celebrates the TAM students in a separate ceremony. The date this year will be May 22nd from 6—8pm at the Towson University Northeast Building.

Ms. Thomas and Ms. Hoover will be reaching out with additional information as the event approaches.

## Senior Awards Ceremony and Rehearsal

### **Awards Ceremony Rehearsal – Mandatory for all Seniors:**

**Date/time:** May 24, 2024 from 7:30am – 11:00am in the Amoss Center

The Awards Ceremony Rehearsal will take place at Harford Technical High School. Awards Ceremony Rehearsal is **mandatory for all seniors**, even if they do not believe they will receive an award. Seniors should not bring graduation attire to this event and can dress in normal, school appropriate clothes.

### **Awards Ceremony — Mandatory for all Seniors:**

**Date/time:** May 28, 2024 times TBD, but likely 8:00am – 10:00am in the Amoss Center

The senior awards ceremony will take place at Harford Technical High School. This is a **mandatory event** for all seniors, even if they do not believe they will receive an award.

Seniors will attend the ceremony fully attired in their graduation clothes, with the cap, gown, and tassel. Seniors should not plan to bring personal items since they will not have access to lockers and there will not be a secure location available to store items. Seniors will leave the building for the day following the ceremony.

Seniors may hold flowers if they choose. Balloons are not permitted into the ceremony. Guests who bring balloons will be asked to take them to their car.

**More information regarding the awards ceremony and rehearsal will be provided once we have it.** If you have SENIOR AWARDS CEREMONY questions, please contact Ms. Donlick at [Jeanne.Donlick@hcps.org](mailto:Jeanne.Donlick@hcps.org).

## Graduation Ceremony and Rehearsal

### **Graduation Ceremony Rehearsal – Mandatory for all Seniors attending the Graduation Ceremony:**

**Dates/times (BOTH are mandatory):**

**1<sup>st</sup> Practice:** May 29, 2024 from 7:30am – approximately 12:00pm in the New Gym

**2<sup>nd</sup> Practice and Class Photo:** May 30, 2024. Meet at the Turf at 7:30am to take the class photo, then we will move to the Old Gym until approximately 12:00pm.

Graduation practices will take place at Harford Technical High School and we typically plan for 2 morning practices. **Attending both graduation practices is mandatory for all seniors attending the graduation ceremony.** Seniors who do not attend the practices may not be permitted to attend the ceremony. Seniors should not bring graduation attire to this event and can dress in normal, school appropriate clothes.

Seniors will receive banners and tickets for graduation following the second graduation practice.

### **Graduation Ceremony:**

**Date/time:** May 31, 2024 6pm until approximately 7:30pm

**Number of tickets:** HCPS has not made decisions regarding the number of graduation tickets each graduate will receive

**Location:** APGFCU Arena at HCC

**More information regarding the Graduation Ceremony and Rehearsals will be provided once we have it.**

## Whole Group Panoramic Portrait

Date/Time: May 30th starting at 7:30am on the Turf

LifeTouch will have a website where seniors and families can order the panoramic shot. In the event of rain, the portrait will take place in the New Gym.

If the portrait is outside, seniors will line up by height in the shape of a 24 and an aerial shot will be taken of the class. In the event of rain, seniors will sit in the bleachers for a more traditional class portrait.

Additional details will be provided as they become available.

## Senior Picnic

**Date/Time:** May 29th immediately following graduation practice

**Rain Date:** May 30th immediately following graduation practice

The senior picnic is held on the turf. Additional details will be provided as they become available.

## Financial Assistance

Please know that if a senior or family is having financial difficulty with senior year items, there may be assistance available!

Students and/or families can contact either advisor ([Morgan.Matteson@hcps.org](mailto:Morgan.Matteson@hcps.org) or [Michelle.Goldberg@hcps.org](mailto:Michelle.Goldberg@hcps.org)), any school counselor ([Matthew.Berg@hcps.org](mailto:Matthew.Berg@hcps.org), [Caitlin.Torley@hcps.org](mailto:Caitlin.Torley@hcps.org), or [Molly.Roseland@hcps.org](mailto:Molly.Roseland@hcps.org)) or any administrator ([Terri.Cohee@hcps.org](mailto:Terri.Cohee@hcps.org), [Albert.Johnson@hcps.org](mailto:Albert.Johnson@hcps.org), or [Jim.Reynolds@hcps.org](mailto:Jim.Reynolds@hcps.org)) with financial assistance requests.

⇒ **Senior Banners deadline to purchase was Nov 3rd**

⇒ Contact Ms. Goldberg at [Michelle.Goldberg@hcps.org](mailto:Michelle.Goldberg@hcps.org) with any BANNER questions

⇒ **Senior Wear deadline was Nov 26th**

⇒ This was handled by a 3rd party vendor

⇒ **Senior Portrait deadline was Jan 2nd**

⇒ Contact Mr. Mears at [Aaron.Mears@hcps.org](mailto:Aaron.Mears@hcps.org) with any PORTRAIT questions

⇒ **Senior Quote and Baby Picture deadline was Jan 12th**

⇒ Contact Mr. Mears at [Aaron.Mears@hcps.org](mailto:Aaron.Mears@hcps.org) with any BABY PICTURE questions

⇒ **Senior Recognition Ads deadline was Jan 29th**

⇒ Contact Mr. Mears at [Aaron.Mears@hcps.org](mailto:Aaron.Mears@hcps.org) with any RECOGNITION AD questions

⇒ **Prom Guest Pass deadline was March 11th**

⇒ Contact Ms. Matteson at [Morgan.Matteson@hcps.org](mailto:Morgan.Matteson@hcps.org) with any GUEST PASS questions

⇒ **Senior Trip tickets are sold out**

⇒ Contact Ms. Matteson at [Morgan.Matteson@hcps.org](mailto:Morgan.Matteson@hcps.org) with any SENIOR TRIP questions

⇒ **Yearbook ordering sales have ended**

⇒ Contact Mr. Mears at [Aaron.Mears@hcps.org](mailto:Aaron.Mears@hcps.org) with any YEARBOOK questions