

HUDSON HIGH SCHOOL



SENIOR COMMENCEMENT BULLETIN Class of 2016

Commencement: 7:30pm on Wednesday, May 18th
E.J. Thomas Hall, University of Akron

DON'T GIVE UP
THE SHIP

MAY 18TH COMMENCEMENT DATE

This year's commencement on Wednesday, May 18th is the earliest we've ever had—primarily driven by the district's adoption of an earlier start to the school year that resulting in the first semester ending before winter break. As a result, we've adjusted a few dates that differ from past practice—please pay attention to the timeline included in this bulletin.

SENIOR INTERNSHIP OPTION (It's not too late!)

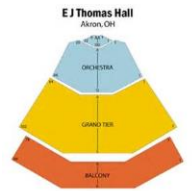
The Senior Internship Option is an opportunity to participate in an independent study project during the last three weeks of the senior year. Seniors can pursue practical educational experiences of interest to them. The program takes place during the last fourteen days of the school year, April 25th through May 13th. The work must be voluntary and there may be no monetary or other compensation. The time required for the project must meet or exceed thirty (30) hours per week. Other requirements include:

1. The student must design a program that will enable him or her to pursue professional interests in an educational and practical way—it should be related to the student's career path.
2. The student must arrange for a community advisor to sponsor a daily work experience during the project period of three weeks. It is recommended that an immediate relative not be chosen as community sponsors; the student must see an administrator to discuss the additional requirements for such cases.
3. The student must arrange for a school (faculty) advisor to provide guidance, feedback, and assure student accountability regarding fulfillment of the project guideline requirements.
4. The student must meet the minimum requirements listed under "Student Requirements and Responsibilities."
5. Hours dedicated to AP classes and/or tests count toward the 30-hours per week—students may do both if the flexibility exists at their internship location.
6. The student must complete the preliminary application form and return it to their respective unit principal by March 18th. **If seniors need more time, applications can be accepted the Monday following Spring Break.**

COMMENCEMENT TICKETS

Commencement tickets, five (5) per student, will be distributed immediately following the mandatory commencement practice on Monday, May 16th. **Handicapped seating:** There are **14 seats** designated for handicapped individuals. Seven seats are located at the orchestra level and seven on the second level.

One seat behind each handicapped seat is available for **one** family member. Once the first 7 seats are filled (with the 7 family members behind each) in the orchestra level, people will then move upstairs to the second level for the remaining 7 seats, with family member. You are advised to contact E J Thomas Hall directly with your questions about handicapped seating at (330) 972-7598.



CAPS AND GOWNS

Caps and gowns will be distributed by unit principals in the auditorium at Commencement practice Monday, May 16th. The cap and gown belongs to each graduating senior. **Please see that your cap and gown fit properly before leaving school on Monday.** Mrs. Carmichael (Commencement Coordinator) will be available to coordinate any needed adjustments. And keep an eye on that tassel—it'll slip out of the bag if you're not careful! Also, to remove wrinkles, hang your gown near a hot shower (steam) prior to the ceremonies—do NOT iron it! Graduating seniors will use their caps and gowns for admission to E.J. Thomas Hall on May 18th.



SENIOR EXAMS

Seniors will be taking exams in semester classes only, scheduled May 11th -13th, Wednesday-Friday. Teachers are responsible for notifying students, parents, and counselors if a senior has failed a course needed for graduation. All seniors are required to be in classes through Friday, May 13th (Commencement practice on Monday, May 16th).

COMMENCEMENT DECORUM

Appropriate, dignified behavior is expected from all in attendance during the commencement exercises. **Every family has the right to share this special time without inappropriate or excessive interruptions from others. Air horns are strictly forbidden!** We hope parents will support us in this belief and encourage each student to act in an acceptable manner. Just a note to the graduating senior—Commencement is a school activity! Diplomas may be held for graduates who violate our Code of Conduct or commencement decorum pending a due process hearing and possible consequences at school the following week—again, commencement is, and remains, a school function! Reminder: E.J. Thomas Hall is a non-smoking facility!

COMMENCEMENT APPAREL

As determined by Hudson High School tradition, **all graduates will wear navy blue caps and gowns** with white tassels. **Dress shoes** are required. Tennis shoes, flip-flops, hiking/military-style boots, baseball cleats, Crocs, etc. will not be permitted—again, simply wear dress shoes and we won't have to worry about it. Gentlemen should wear dark, full-length trousers, socks, shirt and tie. **Jeans are not permitted.** Each senior's attire will be checked in the assembly area. **Those not properly dressed will be denied participation.** The tassel is to be worn on the left side of the cap. Again, we recommend that you have your gown steamed prior to participating in the ceremonies.

GRADUATION PICTURES

Hudson Cable TV will produce a DVD of the Graduation Ceremony. Please see the enclosed DVD order form from HCTV for details. Family members will not be able to approach the stage for individual photographs, but the theatre will be open for a brief time after the ceremony if you wish to take pictures in the lobby or stage area.



CELEBRATE 13 YEARS OF EDUCATION!!!

The High School Library would like to honor all of our 2016 graduates by placing their Kindergarten pictures in our showcase. Please send your child's wallet sized Kindergarten picture to the library with the student's name and phone number on the back of the photo to the High School Library by April 15. Pictures will be returned when students pick up their graduation tickets.

TRADITION CONTINUES: CUM LAUDE RECOGNITION

Hudson High School honors outstanding academic achievement using a Cum Laude tiered-recognition system. Students with over a 4.33 will graduate with highest honors, Summa Cum Laude. 4.0 through 4.33 graduate Magna Cum Laude—with great honor. Students with GPAs above 3.67 earn Cum Laude, Latin for "with honor." This recognition reflects our interest to recognize a greater number of academically talented students where students compete against a standard of excellence versus each other. Our challenge will be to factor in 8th semester/final grades in a short window of time to determine those qualified for the Cum Laude medallions. Medallions will be distributed the evening of commencement as seniors check-in.



BACCALAUREATE

The Baccalaureate Ceremony will be held on Tuesday, May 17th in the HHS auditorium at 7:00 PM. This is a non-denominational service planned by the Hudson Ministerial Association—it is **NOT a school function.** The service is not mandatory, and graduates do not wear caps and gowns. Please contact individual churches if you have questions as officials of the Hudson High School administration and staff are not involved in the program.

SENIORS' LAST DAY OF CLASSES

Seniors' last full day of classes is **Friday, May 13th**—that's a regular, 10-period day and your attendance in all classes up through this day is expected! On the following Monday, May 16th, graduates must arrive to school by 11:00 am and report to the auditorium for Commencement practice. Seniors are **invited to a PTO-sponsored cookout following rehearsal** off the commons at the senior parking lot entrance. Seniors who have participated in the Senior Internship Option will have their symposium scheduled sometime between Friday afternoon, May 13th and the morning of May 18th. We encourage the seniors to stay focused on their academics through the end of the year. Poor choices in school behavior may warrant consequences that impact when a graduate receives his or her diploma.

CERTIFICATION OF GRADUATION (fines, fees and obligations!)

Seniors will receive a “Certification for Graduation” from Mrs. Rubin or Mrs. Carmichael (Commencement coordinators) at the April 12th Senior Class Meeting. **All items on that checklist must be completed in order to receive their graduation cap, gown and tickets.** The certification list includes the following: earn required 21 credits, pay all school and course fees, Naviance items (where to send final transcript, senior survey, graduation survey), empty locker, check diploma name spelling and graduation program markings, return all books or pay for them, pay all library fines, and close your lunch account. Log on to MyPaymentsPlus to view any outstanding school fees or food service account deficits. Students should also check with the Media Center for outstanding fines. **All Naviance requirements should be completed by May 1, 2016. All other items including financial obligations should be wrapped up by the end of the school day, Friday, May 13th if at all possible.** Commencement Tickets are held for Seniors with outstanding financial obligations—after graduation, the diploma is only released after all payments have been made.



COMMENCEMENT REHEARSAL (THE “ONE AND ONLY”)

We only have one commencement practice (11:00 am on Monday, May 16th) and attendance is mandatory for participation in graduation exercises on May 18th. Our practice goal is perfection so no one is embarrassed Wednesday evening. **Attendance at the Friday rehearsal is required—IN A SPIRIT OF REDUNDANCY . . . IT’S MANDATORY!** Again, if you don’t attend practice, you won’t be able to participate on Wednesday! In order to proceed through Graduation Rehearsal, all **students must have a “Certification of Graduation” as described in the paragraph above.** Commencement rehearsal begins at 9:30 a.m. in the auditorium Monday, May 16th. **Under no circumstances are seniors to be outside the Commons/Auditorium area—classes remain in session for juniors, sophomores and freshmen.** Students will be given commencement instructions, announcements and seating locations. We’ll conduct a couple of run-throughs that simulate what commencement will be like at EJ Thomas. At the end of the practice, seniors will pick up their caps & gowns, cords, if applicable, and tickets (**only if the senior’s financial obligations have been met**). Seniors are invited to the PTO-sponsored cookout following commencement rehearsal; you are then dismissed for the day—please don’t meander through the halls—classes are still in session!



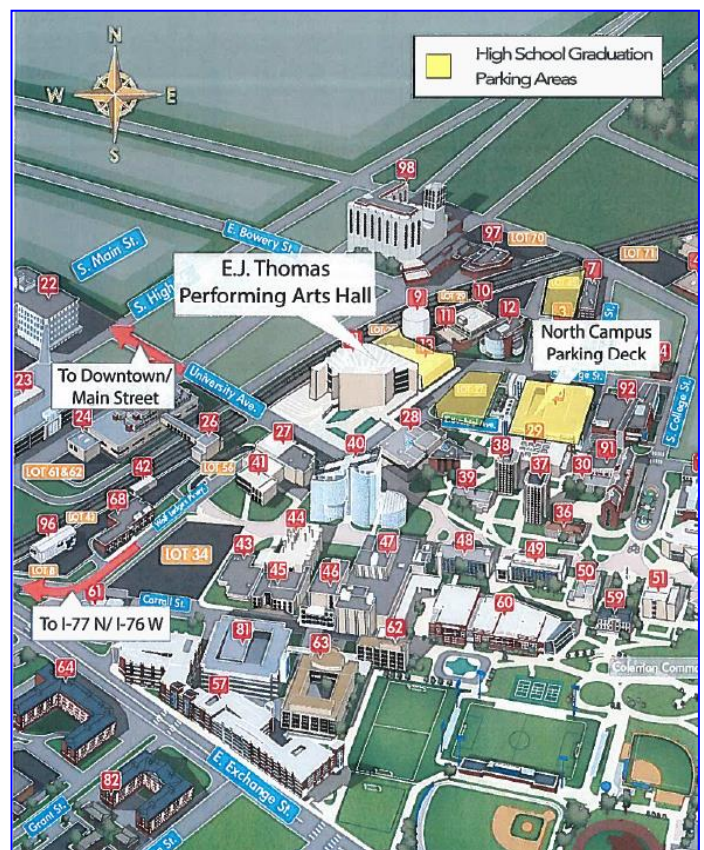
COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES 2016

Commencement exercises for the Class of 2016 will be held at EJ Thomas Hall on Wednesday, May 18th at 7:30 pm.

Students are expected to be at EJ Thomas Hall promptly at 6:30 p.m. with their cap and gown—the cap & gown will serve as your admission ticket. Graduates who arrive late may experience problems parking and gaining entrance to the theatre—it becomes very crowded. Students will be responsible for their own transportation to EJ Thomas on Wednesday. The doors will open to family and friends at 6:15 pm. Again, all seating is general admission. **Please note:** National Merit Finalists and Commended students will meet at 6:30pm by the fountain for a group photo.

DIRECTIONS/PARKING

The EJ Thomas Performing Arts Hall (198 Hill Street, Akron, OH 44325-0033, 330. 972.7595) is located on the University of Akron campus. **Directions from Hudson:** Route 8 South. Exit Buchtel Avenue/Carroll Street. Turn right onto Buchtel Avenue. Follow Buchtel Avenue until you reach Thomas Hall and the various parking decks and lots located adjacent to the Hall. Those with handicapped guests should park in designated areas of the E. J. Thomas parking deck. From that entrance, those guests will be directed to the nearby handicapped seating areas. Graduates will receive instructions at Rehearsal on Monday, May 16th for arrival and line-up information (they should arrive by 6:30 pm—and should plan for rush-hour traffic just in case).



RECESSIONAL

After seniors receive diplomas, the ceremony is not over! You will return to your seats for the conclusion of the ceremony. E. J. Thomas requires us to do our recessional as follows: all rows of graduates will rise and exit to the right. A row of faculty members will direct the graduates upstairs to the Goodrich Lobby where you can meet your families and be dismissed. It's very crowded, post-commencement; communicating a location to meet before-hand is advised!

GRADE CARDS/TRANSCRIPTS

Final report cards will be mailed the week of June 6th. Students must declare where they want their final transcript to be sent (by May 2nd). Final transcript requests should be processed through the records office.



IN SUMMARY . . . this is a very special and enjoyable time for all of you. We sincerely hope that your commencement ceremony and your graduation related events are a source of pride for you and your family. **Please continue to make good choices this time of year and be safe!** If you have questions that are not answered in this bulletin, please feel free to call us at 330.653.1416 or email at Wilchb@Hudson.edu. Our HHS Commencement Advisor is Nicole Carmichael (Carmichn@hudson.edu). And then next fall and beyond, graduates, please feel free to email/contact us with a report on how you're doing; and let us know how we did in preparing you!



SENIOR CALENDAR, SPRING OF 2016

March 9 – 13	Wednesday-Sunday		Music Trip to Orlando, FL
March 11	Friday		End of 3 rd Quarter—one to go!
March 18	Friday	Aux Gym	World Culture Day
March 18	Friday	Main Office	Senior Internship application due
March 21-25	Week	No school	Spring Break—No School
March 31-April 3	Thu-Sun		French Trip to Quebec
April 2-9	Saturday- Saturday		New Dimensions Trip to NYC
April 9	Saturday	8:00 pm	Sadie Hawkins Dance
April 12	Tuesday	Explorer Period	Senior Class Meeting/Class Picture—Gym/Stadium
April 18-22	Monday-Friday		Service Learning Trip
April 18-22	Monday-Friday	AM testing	AIR Testing Week—Delayed Start Schedule (Sr Govt Test!)
April 22-23/24	Friday-Sat/Sunday	7:00 pm/2:00 pm	Spring Musical: Pajama Game
April 25	Monday	3:15-5:30 pm	Graduation Auditions- 1 st round
April 25-May 13	3 weeks		Senior Internships—No exams!
Late April	TBA	Lunches	Pick up ordered Graduation Announcements
Late April	TBA	Lunches	Prom Tickets Sold includes dinner, tip & dance.
May 2	Monday		Naviance: where you will be attending college.
May 2	Monday	Naviance	Complete Senior Survey online
May 2	Monday	3:15-5:30	Graduation Auditions- 2 nd round
May 2-13	2 weeks	-	AP Tests
May 13	Friday		Last full day of classes for seniors! Locker clean-out!
May 13-May 18	Friday pm-Wed am	Office	Senior Internship Symposiums scheduled
May 14	Saturday	Dinner Included	PROM Westin Hotel, Cleveland
May 15	Sunday early am	Macedonia	After Prom Fun-n-Stuff
May 16	Monday	11:00 am	Senior Commencement Practice (Mandatory!) Distribute Caps/Gowns/Tickets PTO-Sponsored "Senior Cook-out" follows
May 16	Monday	7:00 pm	Awards Ceremony, Auditorium
May 17	Tuesday	7:00 – 8:30 pm	Baccalaureate Ceremony, Auditorium
May 18	Wednesday	6:30 pm	Arrive at EJ/National Merit photo by fountain at EJ
May 18	Wednesday	7:30 pm	GRADUATION- EJ Thomas Hall, Akron

You're invited back to HHS on Tuesday, November 22nd for the annual NHS-sponsored 2016 Alumni Reception!

On behalf of the HHS administration, teaching and support staff, Congrats & Best Wishes!