



## BLAIR ACADEMY

April 7, 2022

Dear parents of seniors:

With graduation exactly seven weeks from today, I write to share details about the culminating events for our seniors.

The final stretch will find your senior coping with an array of feelings—from excitement and delight to sadness and some inevitable anxiety about what lies ahead. For many, the prospect of leaving the supportive Blair community will not be easy; despite occasional grumblings, most of them have come to genuinely enjoy and appreciate the opportunity that you and Blair have made possible. As the few remaining weeks unfold, I urge you to join us in being sensitive to those various (and sometimes conflicting) feelings and in urging your sons and daughters to finish their Blair experience on a strong and successful note.

**The events for the seniors** are designed to celebrate the collective success of the graduating class and honor the significance of the Blair Academy diploma. Though a few individuals will be recognized with traditional prizes, it is the collective legacy of this group of young adults that we most want to acknowledge and celebrate. In order to help you better plan for the various end-of-year ceremonies, I've included a schedule of events for the last several days of school and some additional notes below on the various events.

**Exam exemptions** allow seniors to avoid taking the final examination in courses in which they have achieved solid academic performance. A minimum grade of 4.0 S or 3.5 G is required in order to qualify for exemption. (Any required senior exams will be administered on **Tuesday May 24**).

The **Senior Prom** will be held on Tuesday evening, May 24, at 6 p.m. at the North Shore House. All students will travel by bus to and from the prom. Parents are welcome to come to Sharpe House lawn to take photos from 4:15-5:30. There will be a small reception for parents of prom-goers on the Sharpe House patio.

The **Class of 2022 Assembly** will be held on Wednesday, May 25, at 5 p.m. in Armstrong-Hipkins Center for the Arts. A special dinner for seniors, families and faculty will be served from 6:15-7:30 p.m. in the Romano Dining Room.

At 7:30 p.m., the seniors will gather in front of Timken Library and will process across campus to Armstrong-Hipkins Center for the Arts where the **Baccalaureate Service** will begin at 8 p.m.

An informal dance for seniors from 9:30 until 11:00 p.m. rounds out the night. The school expects all senior boarding students to spend Wednesday night in their dormitories. Any exceptions need to be cleared through the Student Life Office. We do control traffic on and off campus that night very carefully. School entrances will be closed at 9:00 p.m.; day students or boarders leaving with their parents after 9:00 p.m. must remain off campus until Thursday morning.

On **Thursday morning**, parents are invited to have coffee and refreshments at Sharpe House between 9:30 and 10:30 a.m. At 10:30 a.m., the senior class assembles in front of Timken Library and proceeds with the faculty through the arch to the graduation site on the lawn beside Sharpe House. In the event of significant rain, we would move the ceremony under a tent on Marcial Field. The ceremony generally lasts for 75 minutes. Graduates and their guests are welcome to attend the **Commencement Luncheon** that follows. (Please leave dogs at home for the day. Keeping our already sizeable campus canine population out of the mix is challenging enough!)

Your assistance in reminding new graduates of the need for appropriate behavior on campus that afternoon will be appreciated by the faculty and underclass students; while celebration is certainly called for, drinking and smoking are not appropriate. Because underclass students will continue to prepare for their exams in the days following graduation, graduates are asked to clean their rooms out and to leave campus by 4:00 p.m. on Thursday and not to return to campus until underclass students have completed their obligations on June 2 .

Before closing, the faculty appeal to you for awareness of—and involvement in—your child's post graduation plans. There is a delightful aura of success, celebration and optimism that comes with this time of year, but it needs to be tempered by good sense and careful judgment. If you plan to host graduation parties, please be sure that your presence is obvious and responsible. We strongly advise that you not make alcohol available given the potential for tragic consequences and liability.

Each year, some parents seek guidance on the matter of gifts to faculty members from graduating seniors and their families. As much as anything else, faculty members appreciate a senior taking the time and interest to express gratitude in person—or, if not possible in person, in the form of a personal note. And, staying in touch in years beyond Blair celebrates the value of relationships that have been so meaningful here on campus. Material gifts are by no means necessary, but if you are contemplating such a gesture, please know that school policy prohibits faculty members from accepting cash gifts.

Finally, on behalf of the Head of School and the entire faculty, let me say how much I look forward to sharing this exciting time with you. It is, to be sure, a celebration of much that is wonderful and a time to be grateful for the experiences we all have shared. If you have questions or concerns about any aspect of Commencement week, please be in touch with Susan Long, associate director of advancement for parent relations, at [longs@blair.edu](mailto:longs@blair.edu)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ryan M. Pagotto". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ryan" being the most prominent.

Ryan M. Pagotto  
Associate Head of School

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR SENIORS: MAY 22-26

<b>SUNDAY, MAY 22</b>	6:30 p.m.	SENIOR SEMINAR & BOWLING TRIP (Required for all seniors)
<b>MONDAY, MAY 23</b>	6:00 p.m.	SENIOR DINNER, DESSERT & VIDEO (Health Center lawn and CEC)
<b>TUESDAY, MAY 24</b>	4:15-5:30 p.m.	SENIOR/JUNIOR PROM PHOTOS (Sharpe House lawn) <i>(Reception for parents of attendees follows on Sharpe House patio)</i>
	6:00 p.m.	SENIOR/JUNIOR PROM Buses load at Sharpe House driveway and unload at Hardwick clock tower Post-prom reception in Hardwick Courtyard upon return
	11:45 p.m.	Seniors/juniors in their own dorms
<b>WEDNESDAY, MAY 25</b>	11 a.m.	<b>SENIOR PACKING DAY</b>
	2:45 p.m.	<b>SCHOOL MEETING (Underclassmen &amp; Faculty)</b>
	3:30 p.m.	<b>GRADUATION REHEARSAL</b> (seniors meet in front of Timken Library)
	5:00 p.m.	<b>CLASS OF 2022 ASSEMBLY</b> (formal attire...required for all seniors)
	6:15-7:30	<b>DINNER FOR SENIORS AND THEIR FAMILIES</b>
	8:00 p.m.	<b>BACCALAUREATE</b> (seniors line up at 7:30 p.m. for procession; formal attire)
	9:30-11:00 p.m.	<b>SENIOR DANCE</b> (Bogle Hall Plaza)
	11:45 p.m.	Seniors return to their own dorms
<b>THURSDAY, MAY 26</b>	9:30-10:30 a.m.	Seniors pick up flowers & boutonnieres from Mr. & Mrs. Curran at Sharpe House (parents are welcome)
	10:30 a.m.	Seniors line-up in front of Timken Library
	11 a.m.	<b>COMMENCEMENT</b>
	12:15-2:00 p.m.	<b>COMMENCEMENT LUNCHEON</b>
	2-4 p.m.	<b>MOVE-OUT PROCESS</b>
	4 p.m.	Graduates depart campus

### **DRESS REQUIREMENTS FOR SENIORS:**

- For the **CLASS OF 2022 ASSEMBLY** and **BACCALAUREATE**, dress is formal attire (as referenced in Student Handbook).
- For **COMMENCEMENT**, students should wear blue blazers, gray slacks, white shirts and ties (and appropriate footwear, including socks), or long or knee-length, off-white or white dresses and appropriate shoes.
- **SPECIAL-NEEDS ACCOMMODATION**: any requests should be directed to Susan Long at [longs@blair.edu](mailto:longs@blair.edu).