

# **CLASS of 2026**



**Enclosed in this packet are Events and other important SENIOR dates:**

- **September – December, 2025**
- **January – March, 2026**
- **April – June, 2026**

Congratulations to the Class of 2026! There are several things parents and students need to be aware of during their Senior year of high school. We have broken down the items by three month increments to help you sort through the many questions you may have and when you should address the various items.

## September - December

### **Communication:**

Additional information will be shared throughout the school year via email, as well as in our newsletter *The Bulldog Update*, over daily announcements, on the Chelsea School District website ([www.chelseaschools.org](http://www.chelseaschools.org)), and in Senior class meetings. There is a link to Counseling updates in The Bulldog Update which contains very important information as well. The Bulldog Update is sent via email each Friday. **It is very important that if you have a new e-mail or change of address, please notify Vanessa Fisk at [vfisk@chelseaschools.org](mailto:vfisk@chelseaschools.org) to update.**

### **On Track to Graduate:**

It is our goal that every Senior is on track to graduate. In early September, the counselors review each Senior's course history to be sure they will meet the graduation requirements for 2025. If your child's record reveals a discrepancy, the student will be contacted to adjust their schedule and to formulate a plan. Each Senior will receive a copy of their transcript which will show their current status. We encourage you to continue to follow your child's progress throughout the school year in PowerSchool.

### **Counseling Office Turn-Around:**

Please note that all paperwork to be processed by the Counseling Office may take up to fifteen (15) full working days. This includes college applications, transcript requests, letters of recommendation, scholarship applications and other miscellaneous items. Please plan ahead!

### **College Visits:**

Seniors are allowed **3** excused college visit days per year. **Paperwork must be completed prior to the college visit and student still needs to be excused for attendance by a parent/guardian.** Paperwork can be picked up in the Counseling Office or downloaded from the Counseling website. Once both documents have been received (College Visit Form signed by teachers/counselor **AND** Verification from the college you visited), the excused absence will be changed to a College Visit Day which will not count toward absences. It is **your student's responsibility** to make sure that attendance has been recorded as a College Visit Day, so be sure to check PowerSchool.

### **Colleges Visiting CHS and College Fairs:**

Mrs. Kay keeps a list of all colleges visiting CHS on the Counseling website and Naviance portal. Students sign up through their Naviance account via Rep Visits. In addition, a list of local college fairs can be found on their web page.

### **Letters of Recommendation:**

If your student is requesting letters of recommendation from their teachers/coaches/counselor, please be considerate and give them plenty of time (2-3 weeks). Remember, they have busy schedules and will need

advance notice to write a quality letter. Students should talk to their teacher or their Counselor first to request a letter of recommendation and discuss what the student will need to provide to the teacher/Counselor.

## **Pictures, Pictures, Pictures:**

There are 3 main picture-taking aspects to the Senior year:

### **1. Picture for Graduation Composite:**

August 11-12, 2025: Senior Days at Chelsea High School.

**All Seniors must have their photos taken on this date by *schoolpictures.com* at Chelsea High School.**

**2. Picture for the Yearbook:** ON YOUR OWN or use a photo taken at Senior Days on August 11-12, 2025. You may select an outdoor photo taken on Senior Day by Michael Barton studios to be your yearbook photo. Schoolpictures.com offered Senior portrait sessions in August as part of their *Michael Barton Studios*. If you hire a professional to take the photos, make sure to follow the guidelines below:

Seniors have the opportunity to submit their own senior photo to the yearbook. Your photos must meet the following criteria:

- Professional (this doesn't mean that you must hire a professional photographer, but it means they must be professional quality - no screenshots, selfies, or stickers.)
- Have an outdoor background
- Full body or 3/4 body
- Portrait orientation (landscape pictures will not be accepted)
- Full file size (ie - Do not reduce the size of the file when you upload it)
- JPEG format

Please upload your senior photo to <https://www.yearbooknerds.com/chelsea-high-school>

**The deadline to submit senior photos is Friday, October 31st.** Due to yearbook printing deadlines, we will not be able to accept senior photos after this date.

If you purchased a senior photo through the school photographer (you would have had your photo taken with a nature background), you do NOT need to submit your photo to the link above. The school photographer will send your photo directly to the yearbook for you.

### **3. Panoramic Picture with entire Senior class:** October 23, 2025

The students pose for two group pictures. One is a serious pose and the other is a "wild and crazy" pose.

## **Yearbooks:**

Your 2025-2026 yearbook will be on sale in the fall of your Senior year.. You can purchase a yearbook at: <https://www.yearbooknerds.com/chelsea-high-school>

### **Senior Ads:**

Senior Recognition Ads reserve a spot for you in the yearbook where you can upload and arrange your own photos and text. Include baby pictures, family photos, and pictures of you with friends. Prices start at just \$25. You can purchase & design your Recognition Ad at: <https://www.yearbooknerds.com/chelsea-high-school>

The deadline to purchase a Senior Recognition Ad is December 1, 2025.

If you have any questions, please email [yearbook@chelseaschools.org](mailto:yearbook@chelseaschools.org)

## **College Applications:**

The Counseling Office will begin processing applications for the Class of 2026 beginning **September 1st, 2025**. Students should apply prior to **October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025** via their Naviance account. Colleges/universities require applications to be completed on-line. If you do not have internet access at home, please see your counselor.

## **Transcript Requests:**

AFTER you have submitted your college application, you will need to request your transcript online via Naviance. Official transcripts for colleges/military, scholarships, NCAA, insurance purposes, etc. must be requested via your Naviance student account. Admission offices cannot process an application without the transcript. Current students: You may obtain an unofficial transcript for your personal use by stopping in to see Mrs. Kay.

Current Seniors: Students, log into Naviance via the Clever App on your iPad. You must be logged into your school email to use this option.

\*If you are applying via the Common Application, you will need to match your CommonAPP and Naviance accounts in Naviance. Once you have matched both accounts all transcripts need to be requested via Naviance.

## **ACT/SAT:**

Seniors who wish to retake the ACT/SAT must register on-line at [www.act.org](http://www.act.org) (ACT) or [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org) (SAT). Students may still apply to colleges prior to their retakes, but communicate re-take information to the admission offices. If your college requires official SAT or ACT scores, students will need to order their scores through their College Board or ACT account directly.

## **Scholarship Information:**

There are many scholarships available to students. Local and national scholarships are updated on a weekly basis on the Counseling website, in students Naviance portal and on the Counseling Office Canva page.

## **Schedule Changes:**

Senior schedules are submitted as a part of their college application. We all know that senioritis can set in once students have been accepted to the college of their choice. It is **very important** that your student notify their college of **any** schedule changes in order to prevent any problem that may affect their admission status.

### **Diploma Ordering:**

A diploma name verification form will be distributed electronically to every Senior in September. Each Senior is asked to verify that the information is correct. This includes any special spacing, characters, suffix, etc. Please note that the student's legal name must be submitted for the diploma (this must match their birth certificate or adoption paperwork). Some students may wish to shorten their name or ask that their name be announced differently at the graduation ceremony; however, the diploma itself is a legal document that must contain their legal name. Any diploma that has to be re-ordered due to error may result in a fee being charged to the student/parent.

***A student may walk at Graduation, but will not receive their diploma until all school fines are paid.***

### **Cap n' Gown and Announcements:**

Jostens

Jeff Hollandsworth, Jostens Representative

20033 Eureka Rd.

Taylor, Michigan 48180

(734) 284-2528

- Order form packets are distributed to all Seniors in a class meeting in the Fall.
- There will be a deadline for placing orders
- Delay in ordering may affect price and availability of some items

### **Financial Aid Workshop:**

An important financial aid workshop for Seniors and their parents will take place in October. Additional information, as well as the date of the workshop, will be emailed to parents and also available on the CHS website when the date is finalized.

### **Financial Aid:**

Every graduating Senior should complete the online government FASFA form in order to determine eligibility for financial aid, work study and loans for college. **Submissions begin October 1, 2025** and are due March 1, 2026.

Please click on this link to register: <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>



### **Local Scholarship Information:**

Local scholarship applications will be available beginning in February. Please check the Counseling website, your Naviance account or the Counseling Office Haiku page on a weekly basis through the month of May.

**April – June**

**Final Plans:**

Post-graduation plans are included in the Graduation program. Your post-graduation plans (including college, military or work force) must be submitted online. The online form will be available at the beginning of May on the Counseling Office Website.

**Senior Meeting:**

The principal will meet with all Seniors to go over final details of Graduation including dates, times, appropriate dress, etc. Parents will receive an email from the Counseling Office following the meeting regarding the information that is shared with the Seniors.

**Cum Laude:**

Cum Laude status is determined at the end of the second term of the student's Senior year. Please refer to the online student handbook for complete Cum Laude status guidelines.

**Scholarship/Award Recognition:**

We would like to recognize scholarships that Seniors have been awarded at our Senior Awards Night. Scholarship awards must be submitted online. The online form will be available at the beginning of May on the Counseling Office website.

**Graduation Rehearsal:**

Graduation rehearsal is **mandatory** for all Seniors who have met the Graduation requirements and are planning to walk in the Graduation ceremony. *This date is TBD.*

**Senior Class Night:**

Senior Class Night is a celebration for the Class of 2026 to recognize academic success and scholarship recipients. Seniors will receive an email invitation if they are to be recognized. All family members are invited to attend this **free** event.

**Graduation:**

Graduation will take place at the Jerry Niehaus Stadium. *This date is TBD.* All family members/guests are invited to attend this free event. **No tickets are required.**

**Graduation Day Pictures:**

Graduation Foto (Schoolpictures.com)  
300 West Forest Ave.  
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197  
(734) 677-3400

A picture is automatically taken as your student is handed his/her diploma along with a posed picture after they step off the stage. Picture proofs and order forms are sent to you 1-2 weeks following Graduation. If you have additional questions, please contact Graduation Foto at the number above.

### **Final Transcripts:**

Students will receive an email in May from Mrs. Kay to set up their Parchment account. Seniors lose access to Naviance, so Parchment is used from May on to request final transcripts (and if they ever need a transcript once they are an Alumni). Students must order a final transcript to be sent to the college they will be attending through their Parchment account. Transcripts are finalized and available for upload once all Term 3 grades have been recorded (typically late June). Students, if you have not already done so, you **must** register with Parchment at [www.parchment.com](http://www.parchment.com) **using your registration code sent to your CHS email address**. Once registered, you can request your final transcript be sent to your college, NCAA Eligibility Center, military recruiter or workplace. Please note that final transcripts are uploaded to Parchment and are not available through Chelsea High School following Graduation.

### **Additional Information:**

We trust the information in this packet will be helpful to all parents and guardians of Seniors. Please note that updates throughout the year will be posted on the Chelsea School District website, sent via email, as well as our weekly Bulldog Update sent via email.

If you have a new address or a change, or ANY questions, please contact Vanessa Fisk at [vfisk@chelseaschools.org](mailto:vfisk@chelseaschools.org) or 734-433-2201 x1003.