

# WEST ORANGE HIGH SCHOOL

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Dear Class of 2026 Graduates and Families,

As we come upon the second half of the school year, before you know it our end of year activities and events will be here! We would like to provide you with some important information well in advance, so you can plan accordingly. Please note that this letter has also been posted in the Class of 2026 Google Classroom for ability to access clickable links.

WOHS graduating seniors have been invited to visit their elementary or current neighborhood elementary school to be a part of **The Class of 2026 Senior Clap Out** scheduled for the morning of **Friday, June 12th**. The elementary students, staff, and administration want to show how proud they are of you. This event is optional and graduates must register in advance to participate. Please wear your 2026 Jersey or other WOHS spirit wear on this day. We ask that each member of the graduating class take one minute to respond to the Clap Out survey so we can plan accordingly. Please do so no later than June 1st through this survey - [CLAP OUT 2026 REGISTRATION](#)

A majority of the senior class has purchased their caps, gowns and tassels through Jostens which will be delivered to your indicated shipping address in late April. If by chance you did not purchase yet, please take immediate action to do so through PaySchools [Cap, Gown, and Tassel Payment](#). You may then bring your printed payment receipt to Lillin Colon in the LMC to pick up your cap and gown.

On **Thursday, May 28th, at 6:00 pm**, the **Senior Awards Night Ceremony** will be held in the auditorium. Select seniors will be honored for service and academic achievement. Award and scholarship recipients, recognized at this event, will receive correspondence via email/mail.

**Senior Distribution & Yearbook Signing Party** will be held on **Friday, June 12th, 2026**. **The Distribution & Yearbook Signing Party is held** on West Orange High School's baseball/band field. The morning Clap Out is optional for seniors to visit their elementary schools. The distribution and yearbook event begins at 10:00 am and concludes at 12:00 pm. Below are highlights of the event. Students will be able to sign yearbooks and enjoy lunch and music as they wish with other members of the Class of 2026. All financial obligations must be met by the date of this event. Please see Mrs. Bashkoff in the PVW Attendance Office to pay outstanding fines and obligations prior to June 12th. At this event, yearbooks will be distributed and student yearbook signing is encouraged. Limited extra yearbooks will be available for purchase (\$100) until supply is sold out. Extra cap, gown, and tassel packages will be available for purchase for students who did not yet secure theirs. Complimentary BBQ lunch will be served and seniors will also receive their graduation tickets.

On **Monday, June 15th, the Class of 2026 Senior Prom** will be held at The Westmount Country Club in Woodland Park from 7:00 pm to 11:00 pm. Tickets are now available for purchase at the cost of \$120.00\* per person and can be purchased through our PaySchools system. The [PROM CONTRACT](#) outlines all specific behavior policies. All students attending prom must submit a signed prom contract and printed payment receipt. All documents and instructions can be found in the Class of 2026 Google Classroom. The last day to purchase a prom ticket is June 8th, 2026.

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The WOHS PTA is having a **lawn sign fundraiser**. Please consider purchasing a congratulatory lawn sign to celebrate your senior's accomplishments and display your pride. Choose between two sizes: 18x24 (\$22.50) or 36x24 (\$35.00). You are welcome to buy as many signs as you would like to share with proud grandparents or other family members. Orders are due by April 15th (no late orders accepted after this date). Signs will be available for pick up at the high school in early May. Lawnsigns can be purchased at this link: [Givebacks](#)

We are excited to announce that on **Thursday, June 18th, the Class of 2026 will graduate at Essex County Codey Arena at 560 Northfield Avenue in West Orange**. We look forward to your cooperation in celebrating this significant milestone! All graduates must arrive at the arena by 4:00 pm. The graduation ceremony begins at 5:00 pm and takes about 2 hours. **A mandatory graduation rehearsal** will be held at the Richard J. Codey Arena from 11:30 am - 1:30 pm. Graduates are **required** to attend graduation rehearsal in order to participate in graduation. You are expected to arrive at the Arena **ON TIME**. There will be a poster with a seat number next to your name; please sit in the chair marked with your seat number. Masks are optional at these events.

We have been proud of our commencement ceremonies! With each coming year, we attempt to make it even more special for our graduates and their families. Although many individuals have commented on the ceremony in positive ways, others have asked that we take additional steps to respect all members of the audience. We expect to conduct a dignified ceremony and ask that you review proper decorum with your child. Please also be advised that any forms of balls and bullhorns are **banned** from the ceremony. **GUEST ADMISSION TO THE ARENA WILL BE BY TICKET ONLY!** Every graduate receives 4 tickets. The school will not issue more than four tickets. If a student needs more, they may ask their fellow graduates if they are possibly not using all 4 of their tickets. The ceremony will also be Live Streamed on the District's YouTube channel and viewable anytime afterwards. Tickets will be distributed on June 12th at the distribution event. Please tell your guests that the gates will be closed at 4:50 pm and no one will be admitted during the processional. If handicapped accessible seating is required, please contact Ms. Colon at 973.669.5301 ext. 31537 prior to June 16th.

Graduation is a formal ceremony; appropriate behavior and dress is expected. Graduates should wear business casual wear. The graduate cap is worn on the head with the tassel on the right front side of the cap at the graduate's right temple. Should students choose to decorate the cap, it must be done tastefully and deemed appropriate by the administration.

**Professional graduation photographers** will be present at graduation. Each graduate will be photographed as they receive their diploma from a board member on the stage. A portrait type photo will also be taken in front of a backdrop as each student exits off the stage and before they return to their seat. Photos will also be available to you for purchase. A complimentary color 5x7 overview of the ceremony will be mailed to you. All orders carry a full money back guarantee. Photo packages are optional. West Orange High School is not responsible for placing orders or mailing photos. Please direct all inquiries to Island Photography at 800-869-0908 or visit [www.islandphoto.com](http://www.islandphoto.com)

**Project Graduation**, will be on **Thursday, June 18th**, and is a drug, smoke and alcohol free party for graduates following the ceremony. WOHS Administration and Project Graduation provide the Class of 2026 with the best possible graduation party. Each senior's contribution is \$35.00 per ticket. Tickets may be purchased through PaySchools and will be sold through June 16, 2026. No tickets will be sold at the door. [Project Graduation Payment Instructions](#). Students should wear casual clothing, pack a bathing suit, towels, sneakers, and extra casual clothing. Do not bring cash or valuables to this event. The evening includes beverages and food. Project Graduation check-in begins at 7:30 pm. All seniors will be transported from the high school parking lot at approximately 8:30 pm to the FunPlex by school bus. No senior is allowed to drive to Project Graduation. Each graduate's bag will be checked before boarding the bus. Buses will return to West Orange High School on Friday morning approximately 2:20 am.

Your Principal,



Oscar Guerrero, Principal