Liberty High School SENIOR HANDBOOK



Class of 2026

If you have any questions regarding the Commencement Ceremony, please contact Ms. Humbert at 410-751-3560, or mehumbe@carrollk12.org

CARROLL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS LEGAL NOTICES IN PUBLICATIONS

Carroll County Public Schools (CCPS) is required to include one or more legal notices in publications and handbooks. A Notice of Non-discrimination is required in publications for distribution. In addition, the ADA Accessibility Statement is required in all publications pertaining to events to which the general public, including parents/guardians, is invited.

The following statement should be included in all publications:

NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

The Board of Education of Carroll County does not engage in discrimination that is unlawful or contrary to Maryland State Department of Education guidance on the basis of age, color, genetic information, marital status, mental or physical disability, ancestry or national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

The Board of Education of Carroll County is firmly committed to creating equal employment and educational opportunities for all persons by providing an environment that supports optimal academic achievement and productive work and is free from any form of unlawful discrimination, including access to school facilities, educational programs, and extracurricular activities.

The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Director of Human Resources, 125 North Court Street, Westminster, Maryland 21157, (410) 751-3070.

The following statement about program accessibility should be used in advertisements, brochures and flyers publicizing events to which the general public, including parents/guardians, is invited:

ADA ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT

Carroll County Public Schools (CCPS) does not discriminate on the basis of disability in employment or the provision of services, programs or activities. Persons needing auxiliary aids and services for communication should contact the Communications Office at 410-751-3020 or publicinfo@carrollk12.org, or write to Carroll County Public Schools, 125 North Court Street, Westminster, Maryland 21157. Persons who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, may use Relay or 7-1-1. Please contact the school system at least one (1) week in advance of the date the special accommodation is needed.

Information concerning the Americans with Disabilities Act is available from the Director of Facilities Management, (410) 751-3177, or the Communications Officer, (410) 751-3020, 125 North Court Street, Westminster, Maryland 21157.

Table of Contents

** denotes forms to be returned, deadlines are firm. No exceptions!*

Page	
3	Table of Contents
4	Letter from the Principal
5	Class Information Senior Spring Calendar
6	Policies Affecting Seniors Senior Events
7	Graduation Information/Commencement
8	Graduation Attire
9	Announcements/Name Cards
10	Alma Mater
11	Handicapped Seating Request*
12	2026 Yearbook Senior Bio Form
13	Commencement Contract*

LIBERTY
— HIGH SCHOOL —

"LIONS"
Phone
410-751-3560

5855 Bartholow Road, Eldersburg, MD 21784
www.carrollk12.org/lhs
Twitter: @CCPS_LibertyHS

"Strive for Excellence"
Fax
410-751-3564

February 9, 2026

Dear Members of the Class of 2026,

Congratulations on your upcoming graduation from Liberty High School. You should be very proud of all you have accomplished from the first day that you entered kindergarten through this your senior year. You have grown in many ways and have had a myriad of experiences that have prepared you for success as you leave Liberty High School and enter the adult world.

As you enter the homestretch of your high school career and prepare to participate in the planned senior activities, we ask for your assistance in making these activities memorable and enjoyable experiences for everyone involved. Please make sure you are organized. Keep this handbook as a handy reference. It contains reminders, deadlines, dress code requirements, and other useful information for you and your family. To avoid possible conflicts involving employment, give enough notice to your employers so they can plan around your graduation commitments. Please conduct yourself in a manner that demonstrates an appreciation for the formality and significance of these final events of your senior year. Your observance of the rules and decorum will help ensure that you and your classmates will have a commencement ceremony to look back upon with pride and happy memories. You have all worked very hard to get to this point, and you clearly deserve the best experience we can provide.

I would like to personally wish each of the very best in your future endeavors. Your contributions to Liberty High School have made it a better place, and your future success will reflect your character as well as the quality of education you received while you were with us.

Sincerely,

Kenneth J. Goncz
Principal

Senior Activities Calendar—Class of 2026 Important Dates

- ☐ April 8th **DUE DATE…Have you turned in the following**:
  - Senior Year Baby Photos - due to Mr. Elfert
  - SIGNED Commencement Contract – due to Mrs. Hodgkiss
- ☐ April 13th - 17th Prom tickets on sale during all lunches (NO tickets sold after Friday, April 17th).
  - Guest passes will be available starting March 18th in the main office.
- ☐ April 20th Final Senior Meeting
- ☐ April 25th Prom – Martin's West 7pm – 10:30pm
- ☐ April (TBD) Distribution of Grad Attire – Jostens
- ☐ May 4th Handicap Seating, extra ticket request due & Service Hours due!
- ☐ May 18th – May 21st Final Exams – Return LAPTOP & CHARGER to the Media Center after last exam.

  Monday, May 18th B day – 1/1B & 4/4B
  Tuesday, May 19th A day – 1A & 4A
  Wednesday, May 20th B day – 2B & 3B
  Thursday, May 21ST A day– 2/2A & 3/3A **LAST DAY FOR SENIORS**

- ☐ May 21st **LHSweek – TBD DISMISSED TO THE GYM – LAPTOP & CHARGER MUST BE RETURNED TO THE MEDIA CENTER BEFORE PEP RALLY.**
- ☐ May 22nd **NO SENIORS** - **ALL OBLIGATIONS CLEARED (make-up exam date)**
- ☐ May 26th Commencement Rehearsal 8:00am **FULL DRESS**– Liberty High School
  - **ALL OBLIGATIONS CLEARED**
- ☐ May 27th Commencement Rehearsal 8:00am **CASUAL DRESS** – Liberty High School
- ☐ May 28th Commencement Rehearsal @ 8:00am **CASUAL DRESS** – Liberty High School
  - **TICKETS & HONOR CORDS DISTRIBUTED**
  - **Last Call ALL OBLIGATIONS CLEARED**
- ☐ May 28th Community Awards at 6pm **FULL DRESS** – Liberty High School
- ☐ May 29th Commencement Rehearsal 11am **CASUAL DRESS** – McDaniel College
- ☐ June 1st School & Department Awards Ceremony 9am **FULL DRESS** arrive 8:15am–Liberty High School
- ☐ June 3rd **GRADUATION DAY** – Commencement McDaniel College at 3pm – Arrive at 2:15pm

ALL SCHEDULED GRADUATION PRACTICES AND CEREMONIES ARE MANDATORY.

POLICIES AFFECTING SENIORS & SENIOR EVENTS

In order for seniors to be eligible to participate in commencement exercises, they must complete the Maryland State Graduation Requirements by the end of the fourth marking period of their senior year. Seniors who are required to attend summer school after the date of graduation to make-up or meet requirements will not be able to participate in commencement until the following year. Check with your senior to be certain the requirements have been or are scheduled to be met and that course work is being completed.

EXAMINATIONS: Included in this handbook is the schedule for senior exams. Every effort should be made to take your exams as scheduled. A date for make-up exams has been set. Exams may not be taken earlier than the scheduled date.

SERVICE-LEARNING HOURS
Student service learning hours must be submitted to Mrs. Platt no later than 2:30 p.m. on Friday, May 1, 2026, to be eligible to participate in commencement activities and to be considered for meritorious or exemplary service certificates. Students will not receive a diploma until all seventy-five (75) hours have been submitted.

STUDENT OBLIGATIONS: Before students are given their graduation tickets, all assigned detentions and outstanding financial obligations must be cleared. Seniors who have questions regarding obligations should check with their teacher, coach, media center specialist, or their Assistant Principal. Students with unsettled obligations will be informed during the last week of school for seniors, however, it is best to resolve these matters prior to that time. You are requested to make every effort to do so. ***Seniors will not be given graduation tickets until all obligations are cleared.*** Obligations should be cleared immediately upon notification**. No tickets are given to anyone but a graduating senior, who is then responsible for distribution!**

SENIOR EVENTS

SENIOR/JUNIOR PROM: Saturday, April 25– 7:00 pm – 10:30 pm – Formal Attire.
Prom tickets will go on sale April 13th thru April 17th during all lunches. Please note, ALL OBLIGATIONS must be cleared in order to purchase a ticket. The Prom is a formal dance given by the members of the senior class for junior and senior students and their dates. Attire for the evening is FORMAL! (Examples: tuxedos, suits & ties and formal dresses or evening gowns). Prom will be held at Martin's West from 7:00-10:30 p.m. Students must arrive to the prom by 8:00 p.m. No admittance will be given after 8:00 p.m. Once students leave the prom, they are not allowed re-admittance. Students must present their ticket (cost $75) and photo identification.

SENIOR AWARDS ASSEMBLIES: **Community Awards Assembly – Thursday, May 28th at 6pm**
School & Department Awards Assembly – Monday, June 1st at 9am
Cap & Gown Required for BOTH ASSEMBLIES

All seniors must attend these assemblies that are given in honor of the graduating class. These are considered required graduation rehearsals at Liberty HS. This assembly gives seniors the opportunity to appear before the faculty and community in cap and gown to receive formal honors. During the ceremonies, seniors will be recognized for special accomplishments and receive selected departmental and community awards. Often times the recipients of these awards are unknown until the day of the assembly.

GRADUATION INFORMATION

GRADUATION REHEARSALS: In order to participate in Commencement, students **MUST** attend rehearsals. If a student does not attend rehearsal, they may not participate in commencement.

PARTICIPATION IN COMMENCEMENT: In order for a senior to be eligible to participate in commencement, they must complete the Maryland State Graduation Requirements by the end of the fourth marking period of their senior year. Seniors who are required to attend summer school after the date of graduation to make-up or meet requirements will not be able to participate in graduation exercises until the following year. Check with your senior to be certain the requirements have been or are scheduled to be met and that course work is being completed satisfactorily.

GRADUATION PRACTICES (All events may run longer than noted without prior notice):

Tuesday, May 26th	Practice 8:00 – 11 AM LHS - ***FULL GRADUATION ATTIRE REHEARSAL***
Wednesday, May 27th	Practice 8:00 – 11 AM LHS - ***CASUAL DRESS REHEARSAL***
Thursday, May 28th	Practice 8:00 – 11 AM LHS – ***CASUAL DRESS REHEARSAL***- tickets and cords distributed
Thursday, May 28th	Community Awards at LHS 6 PM, Arrival time 5:30 PM ***FULL GRADUATION ATTIRE***
Friday, May 29th	Practice 11AM – McDaniel College - ***CASUAL DRESS REHEARSAL***
Monday, June 1st	Arrive 8:15 AM at LHS, School Awards 9 AM, ***FULL GRADUATION ATTIRE***

You must be on time for ALL Practices!

COMMENCEMENT

Wednesday, JUNE 3rd McDaniel College at 3pm-

Commencement will begin promptly at 3pm at McDaniel College in the Gill Center. Seniors must report to Big Baker Chapel at McDaniel College by 2:15pm dressed in cap, gown and appropriate clothing/shoes and lined up for the entrance processional. Only graduating seniors will be permitted in this area. NO VISITORS OR GUESTS! Doors to the Gill Learning Center will open at 2:00pm for your guests to be seated.

Directions to McDaniel College from Liberty High School:

1. Take Route 32 north past Westminster High School. Continue through the traffic light at the intersection of Green Street and Washington Road (Maggie's Restaurant is on the left).
2. The next traffic light is the intersection of Washington Road and Main Street. Turn left onto Main Street.
3. Follow Main Street through town. You will go through 5 traffic lights. Continue to follow Main Street up the hill towards McDaniel College.
4. There are three entrances to McDaniel College. You will use the third one. It is on the right side. You will see the football stadium and practice fields as you turn into the college.
5. Follow the road up to Gill Center (the gym) and park in the parking lots near the gym.

Tickets for Commencement

Admission to graduation is by ticket only. Tickets are limited to eight (8) per senior. Seniors requiring more than 8 tickets, will need to write a letter to Mrs. Hodgkiss requesting extra tickets. All letter requests need to come from the senior, not parents. Thank you**. Letters requesting extra tickets must be submitted by May 4th. No exceptions.** Remember, tickets will not be distributed to any Senior with an outstanding financial obligation. Seniors are responsible for distributing tickets and will not be released to anyone but the graduate. **TICKETS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AT THE PRACTICE ON MAY 28TH.**

Special Seating (form due to Mrs. Hodgkiss by May 4TH – NO EXCEPTIONS)

There will be limited reserved areas for handicapped and hearing-impaired guests. To request handicapped/hearing impaired reserved seating, complete and return the form in this packet. Return the form to Mrs. Hodgkiss. Seating in these specific areas will be by reserved ticket only. These tickets are a part of the 8 tickets you receive for

Commencement. If you have a ticket for special seating you will enter the gym using the far-left door in the lobby of the Gill Center..

SEATING AT COMMENCEMENT

Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. **No seats may be reserved at graduation**. Doors to the gym in the Gill Center open at 2pm for the commencement ceremony for guests holding a ticket for admission. All guests attending commencement must have a ticket for admission. Ushers cannot hold tickets for arriving guests. Please ask that your friends and family members attending commencement be seated at least 15 minutes before the ceremony begins to avoid interference with the student processional into the ceremony. **The gym doors will be locked approximately 10 minutes prior to the start of the ceremony and will remain locked until all seniors have processed into the main gym**. As this is a dignified event, we ask that all guests behave in such a manner.

DIPLOMA DISTRIBUTION:

The distribution of diplomas will follow the procedure used in all Carroll County high schools. Blank diploma covers will be presented to the graduates at the ceremony. Following the ceremony, recessional lines will proceed directly to the diploma tables located in the Big Baker Chapel where each graduate will receive a graduation envelope containing the diploma, and other items. The diploma tables will be arranged alphabetically by Advisor.
Diplomas will be available to students who did not participate in graduation after June 4th in the main office.

COMMENCEMENT PHOTOGRAPHS: To ensure the appropriate dignity for the graduation ceremony, no members of the audience will be permitted near the stage during the Commencement Exercises. Also, to provide an unobstructed view for those seated in the farthest areas of the audience, parents and guests are asked to take pictures from their seats without standing or moving into the aisles. Again, your cooperation with these requests will provide an enjoyable evening for all guests.

The ceremony is streamed live on the Carroll County Public Schools website and rebroadcasted on CETV Channel 21.

DIPLOMA NAMES: You were asked to turn in diploma forms with the exact spelling of your name as you want it to appear on your diploma. If you did not turn in a form, your diploma will have the name spelled exactly as it appears on your official transcript.

CAPS AND GOWNS: Caps and gowns will be distributed in April – stay tuned for email with dates. At that time, instructions concerning the care and preparation of the cap and gown will be given. If a senior missed ordering a cap and gown see Mrs. Hodgkiss as soon as possible.

Caps and gowns are the official and traditional dress for students in many countries of the world. In most cases, students wear caps and gowns only at graduation exercises and on other special occasions. Graduating seniors at Liberty High School traditionally wear their caps and gowns at the awards ceremonies and commencement.

Seniors who receive academic cords, medals, and other honors are reminded/requested to wear them with their caps and gowns for commencement.

Seniors inappropriately dressed will not be allowed to participate in these events!

All seniors will be wearing blue gown with gold stripe.

Appropriate Dress to Wear under Cap & Gown

Attire underneath the gowns will include the following:

- A dress that doesn't fall below the graduation gown or white blouse
- The dress should be shade of white so that it does not show through the graduation gown. Avoid patterns.
- Dark tie with white buttoned-down dress shirt
- Black dress slacks (no tan or khaki-colored trousers)

- Black dress shoes, boots, or sandals (no flip-flops or tennis shoes are permitted)
- Dark socks with shoes

Gowns should not be ironed! It should be removed from the bag and allowed to hang loosely for at least one week prior to your first rehearsal in cap and gown.

The cap should be placed upon the head with the longer point of the crown to the back. The shorter point should be centered on the forehead, down far enough so that the top is level and parallel to the floor. The tassel is draped over the left temple. Tassels should not be pinned or sewn but should be permitted to hang naturally.

The changing of the tassel is an action practiced in many schools. It is intended to give the graduate a feeling of personal significance and to mark graduation. This will be part of the ceremony.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NAME CARDS: Announcements and cards can be ordered on Jostens website. Receipt of a graduation announcement does not automatically insure a ticket to the graduation ceremony at McDaniel College. Admission to the graduation ceremony is by ticket only. Although you may send announcements to many people, each person you intend to invite to commencement must be given an admission ticket. Announcements ARE NOT commencement tickets.

Obtaining name cards and announcements is the responsibility of the individual senior. The etiquette observed when sending announcements is as follows:

1. Announcements are provided with an inner envelope and an outer envelope, or with one envelope only. Either is socially acceptable.
2. You should address the envelope yourself, using a pen with blue or black ink.
3. The outer envelope should carry the full mailing address. Do not abbreviate "Street" or "Road" or the state.
4. The inner envelope should carry names only in the form you would use in conversation: Mr. and Mrs. Smith, or Helen and Tom, or Aunt Margaret.
5. If children are included in the announcement, list them by name on the inner envelope, but not on the outer envelope, unless only one envelope is used.
6. If the announcement does not have a personal cardholder, insert your card in the announcement with its back to the announcement.
7. Insert the announcement in the inner envelope with the folded edge at the bottom and the front facing the flap. Do not tuck in the flap.
8. Insert the inner envelope in the outer with the flap of the inner envelope facing the address side of the outer envelope.
9. Seal the outer envelope neatly and send it by first class mail.
10. Announcements should be mailed to arrive at their destination approximately two weeks prior to the date of commencement.

THANK YOU NOTES: Good manners and accepted social practice dictate that you thank someone for a graduation gift, for a favor, or for some courtesy extended to you.
Never fail to acknowledge a gift. A prompt acknowledgment lets the sender know that the gift has arrived. Whenever possible, be specific in one way or another. Tell how you are using the gift or how you plan to use it. Try to make a favorable comment about the gift, or quote something complimentary, which someone has said about it. If the present is a sum of money, tell what you plan to do with it. A thank you note should be enthusiastic and sincere, but never "gushy." If you are especially pleased, say so, but don't pretend. **Your thank you note should be handwritten.**

Class Officers:

President:	Payton Oakley
Vice President:	Abhira Kare
Secretary:	Jude Kim
Treasurer:	Parisa Hussain
Historian	Taylor Hoffman/Leah Tombs

Administration:

Mr. Kenneth Goncz	Principal
Ms. Meghan Humbert	Assistant Principal
Mr. Christopher Merson	Assistant Principal

Class Advisor: Mr. Brandon Elfert

Alma Mater

by: Michael Rainbow

Liberty our home our family

Standing strong and always bold

Excellence is in everything we do

Hail to thee the gold and blue

Lion pride we hold close inside

Keeping sure and true

Liberty our alma mater

Forever tried and true!

Congratulations to the Liberty High School - Class of 2026

Remember, as you enter the next phase of your life and continue to "Strive for Excellence" You will always be a Liberty Lion!

The Faculty and Staff of LHS wish you much joy and good fortune!

NOTE: Handicapped Seating is located near the stage, to the right of the graduates as you face the stage.

HANDICAPPED SEATING REQUEST

Student's Name: _____

Number of Tickets Needed (Limit 2): _____

- Note: Each person with a disability is allowed 1 companion; maximum Number of reserved seats is 2 per handicap guest. Please fill out separate forms for each Handicap guest (extra copies are in the main office)

Nature of Disability: (*examples: hearing impaired; wheelchair; vision impaired; etc.*)
This information is necessary to plan seating arrangements.

Please designate if an interpreter is needed with ASL.

_____

_____

_____

Due by May 4th to Mrs. Hodgkiss



2026 Yearbook Senior Bios

Directions:

ALL BIOS ARE COLLECTED DIGITALLY. If you do not reply to the Microsoft Form, you will not have a bio published in the yearbook!

Scan the QR Code to the right or follow the link from the Class of 2026 Counseling Classroom.

You will need to use your CCPS email. Complete the form by Friday, March 13th!

Please note the following:

- YOU MAY ONLY SUBMIT ONCE. Choose your quote wisely.
- QUOTES AND FUTURE PLANS MUST BE SCHOOL APPROPRIATE-
  - No symbols or emojis will be printed.
  - No "hidden references" (such as a quote that tells the reader to go to a specific time of a TV episode or song).
  - If your quote is deemed inappropriate, you WILL NOT get a second submission.
  - Anything questionable WILL NOT be printed.
- QUOTES MUST INCLUDE AN AUTHOR OR SOURCE
  - Quotes without an author/source WILL NOT be printed. If you or someone you know came up with it, list yourself
- SPACE IS LIMITED.
  - The more you include, the smaller the font will be. Keep this in mind when choosing a quote and listing activities/plans. If we run out of space, *activities/plans will be omitted.*
- CHECK YOUR SPELLING!
  - Information will be taken directly from the form. Please spell carefully!

The form will close on March 13. NO SUBMISSIONS will be taken after the form closes.

Questions? See Mrs. Azat in Portable 4 or email deazat@carrollk12.org

LIBERTY HS COMMENCEMENT CONTRACT

DUE ON OR BEFORE **Wednesday, April 8, 2026** to Mrs. Hodgkiss in the main office.

LAST NAME: _________________________FIRST NAME: ______________________________ M.I.: ______
Please check one item only:

1. _____ I will participate in the commencement ceremony at McDaniel College on June 3rd at 3pm and attend all mandatory practices.

Tuesday, May 26th	Practice 8:00 AM – 11 AM LHS - ***FULL GRADUATION ATTIRE REHEARSAL***
Wednesday, May 27th	Practice 8:00 AM – 11 AM LHS - ***CASUAL DRESS REHEARSAL***
Thursday, May 28th	Practice 8:00AM – 11 AM LHS – ***CASUAL DRESS REHEARSAL*** – Cords & Tickets Distributed
Thursday, May 28th	Community Awards at LHS 6 PM, Arrival time 5:30 PM ***FULL GRADUATION ATTIRE***
Friday, May 29th	Practice 11 AM – McDaniel College - ***CASUAL DRESS REHEARSAL***
Monday, June 1st	Arrive 8:15 AM at LHS, School Awards 9 AM, ***FULL GRADUATION ATTIRE***

2. _____ I do not plan to participate in the commencement ceremony. I will pick-up my diploma at LHS after June 5th

If you checked #1 – please read the following, sign below and return the contract by April 8, 2026.
If you checked #2 – please sign below and return the contract by April 1, 2026.

- -

Graduation Agreement

1. The student will arrive by 2:15 P.M., 45 minutes prior to the start of the commencement ceremony. (**Wednesday, June 3rd).**

2. Proper attire is required for rehearsals and Commencement.

3. Students will be responsible for providing their own transportation to all the rehearsals and the commencement ceremony.

4. All financial and detention obligations must be satisfied to receive graduation tickets. This includes your school issued laptop and charger**.**

5. Proper behavior is required for participation. Students must remain in their assigned areas. Improper behavior will result in immediate dismissal from Commencement.

I understand and agree to the following policies and procedures listed above and detailed in the Senior Handbook. I have discussed these policies and procedures with my parents/guardians, and our signatures confirm my commitment to participating in Liberty High School's Class of 2026 Commencement Ceremony at McDaniel College at 3:00 pm on June 3, 2026.

Any concerns with the above policies and procedures should be addressed in writing to our principal, Mr. Goncz no later than April 1, 2026.
Return to Mrs. Hodgkiss no later than April 8th.

_________________________________ _________________________________
Parent/Guardian Signature *Student Signature*