HIGLEY HIGH SCHOOL

480.279.7300 | www.HUSD.org/higleyhigh
4068 E. Pecos Rd, Gilbert, AZ 85295

Mr. Brian Banach, Principal
Mr. Aaron Dille, Assistant Principal/Athletic Director
Mr. Monique Brandau, Assistant Principal/Curriculum
Ms. Pamela Simmons, Assistant Principal/Activities
Mr. Sean Casey, Dean of Students/Security

Re: Class of 2026

Dear Seniors and Parents/Guardians:

This letter has been prepared to help you plan and prepare for graduation. Graduation is rapidly approaching. Therefore, plans and arrangements are being made now to assure a successful commencement. This letter is being provided to inform you of the plans, arrangements, and dates in place currently.

IMPORTANT DATES

- **COMPLETED Thursday, August 21, 2025** – 1st Senior meeting in the HCPA 3rd hour. Report to 3rd hour for attendance and then travel to HCPA after attendance.
- **COMPLETED Saturday, September 6, 2025** – Deadline for Senior Yearbook photos. Schedule photo appointment with Lou Coopey at www.loucoopey.com.
- **COMPLETED Tuesday, November 4, 2025** – Senior Panoramic Picture – all seniors are to report to 1st hour and once attendance is taken immediately report to football field for picture.
- **COMPLETED Tuesday, November 4, 2025** – LAST chance for senior pictures to be in yearbook. Pictures will be taken at Lou Coopey.
- **Monday, March 30, 2026** – Jostens delivers ALL ordered cap/gowns during both lunches to Seniors in cafeteria. If not present, pick it up in Bookstore on March 31st or by April 17th.
- **Tuesday, March 31, 2026, through Friday, April 17, 2026** – Cap/Gowns not picked up in cafeteria on March 30, 2026, please see Bookstore immediately. If you have not ordered your cap and gown, get on Jostens.com immediately to order.
- **Wednesday, April 1, 2026** – 2nd Senior meeting in the HCPA 3rd hour. Report to 3rd hour for attendance and then travel to HCPA after attendance.
- **Monday, May 11, 2026** – Senior Honors and Awards Ceremony – 6:30 pm check in at the Higley Center for the Performing Arts. The ceremony starts at 7:00 pm. (Plan accordingly for parking as other events are taking place on campus this evening).
- **Thursday, May 14 and Friday, May 15, 2026** – Final exams for ALL seniors - These are full days of school.
- **Friday, May 15, 2026 -** Senior checkout begins **ONLY AFTER THEIR LAST FINAL HAS BEEN TAKEN**. **ALL SENIORS MUST HAVE A CHECKOUT FORM COMPLETE AND SIGNED OFF.** Checkout forms will be available May 15, 2026, in the cafeteria at the first checkout station (1 athletics). To participate in your commencement ceremony, you must make sure all items are turned in and fees/fines are paid. **DEADLINE** to complete is Friday, May 15, 2026, at 3:30pm.
- **Tuesday, May 19, 2026** — Mandatory Graduation Practice will begin promptly at 6:00 am in the aux gym.

- **Tuesday, May 19, 2026** – Graduation ceremony at ASU's Desert Financial Arena at 7:30 pm. Check-in at 6:15 p.m. do not be late.

GRADUATION PRACTICE – Prior to the graduation ceremony seniors will be involved in practice for commencement activities. On Tuesday, May 19, 2026, at 6:00 am, all Seniors must report for graduation practice located in the aux gym. Attendance at graduation practice is mandatory! Seniors who do not attend the graduation practice will not be allowed to participate in the ceremony. Seniors are expected to arrive on time and stay for the duration of the practice. Seniors must dress appropriately in compliance with the district and school dress code.

GRADUATION CEREMONY – Tuesday, May 19, 2026, Desert Financial Arena, 7:30 pm

- The ceremony will begin promptly at 7:30 pm. Graduates need to report at 6:15 pm at the **SOUTH end of ASU football stadium entrance for check-in** (entrance closest to west end of Desert Financial)
- There will be no tickets required for graduates or their guests. Any parking available around Desert Financial Arena will be open to you and there will be no reserved Graduation parking sections that evening.
- Seniors who choose to participate in the graduation ceremony are expected to dress appropriately. Appropriate attire for the gentlemen includes dress pants, dress shirt, tie, and dress shoes. Appropriate attire for the ladies includes dress pants with a blouse or a dress with dress shoes. Cut-off shorts, tennis shoes, deck shoes, Crocs, and 'flip-flops' are not considered appropriate attire. Personal items such as corsages, lei, or cap and gown decorations may not be worn.
- It is important that each graduate's name be heard by all in attendance. Please only bring items that will be respectful of other people's ability to hear the proceedings. Do not bring "playthings" or distractions. Items such as corsages, lei, cap and gown decorations **may not be worn** and will be collected prior to the procession of the graduates! Items will be returned after the ceremony. Sealed bottles of water will be allowed entry at the door. Food, drinks, or coolers will not be permitted inside the stadium. Other items such as signs, balloons, or air horns will not be permitted.

- Honors Recognition Cords-
  Top 1%
  Top 2%
  Top 5%
  *You will receive the honors cord at the Senior Awards Night May 11, 2026. *

CLEARANCE OF DEBTS AND TEXTBOOK RETURN – All HUSD laptops, overdue textbooks, library books, athletic uniforms, other school equipment/items and locks must be returned, and debts paid to participate in the graduation practice and ceremony. Your point of contact for outstanding materials and fees will be the Bookstore Manager, Carla Tack – email at Carla.tack@husd.org or stop by bookstore.

GRADUATION PHOTOS – There will be an opportunity for your senior to have professional graduation photos by Lou Coopey. It will be during the commencement ceremony when the Governing Board hands the diploma to your senior. Please visit their website to order. Contact information: 480-830-5667 or www.loucoopey.com.

PARTICIPATION IN GRADUATION – All seniors are encouraged to participate in the commencement ceremony. If any senior is unable to participate, then he or she may request to be excused by contacting Mrs. Tack @ Carla.tack@husd.org or Mrs. Simmons @ pamela.simmons@husd.org by THURSDAY, February 26, 2026.

Graduation Cap and Gown –Jostens, please order your graduation cap and gown as soon as possible. Contact information- www.jostens.com or 1.800.567.8367. **FINAL DEADLINE** to order through Jostens is March 6, 2026. Those orders will be delivered during both school lunches on March 30, 2026. You may **NOT** decorate your cap, and all gowns must be zipped up for our graduation ceremony.

This letter is NOT to be considered an indication that your son or daughter will graduate. All seniors must meet the State of Arizona and the Higley Unified District Board of Education requirements to receive a diploma. Students who do not meet these requirements will not be permitted to take part in the graduation ceremony. We look forward to hearing "Pomp and Circumstance" while your student marches in and is rewarded for their hard work by receiving their diploma at graduation.

Sincerely,
HHS Administration

MESSAGES FROM DESERT FINANCIAL ARENA

High School Graduation represents the culmination of a student's academic achievement. It is a time of celebration and reflection for students, family, friends, faculty and staff. It brings together a diverse community to share the joy of accomplished goals. Graduation is a special event for all involved. Please show respect for everyone who has come to share in the experience. Individuals who engage in inappropriate or disruptive behavior may be removed from the event.

DESERT FINANCIAL SPECIAL SERVICES

- Lost and found is in room 116
- First Aid Station will be in section #15
- Handicapped seating is available in the arena. First come, first served
- ASL interpretation will be provided. The first two rows of section T1 will be reserved for guests requiring ASL interpretation, first come, first served.
- Restrooms and Concessions are available around the concourse

PARENT/GUEST GUIDELINES

- The doors to the Desert Financial Arena open at 6:30 pm, one hour prior to the graduation ceremony.
- The event is open to the public.

- Parents/Guardians, family and friends will not be allowed on the floor at any time before, during or after the ceremony.
- Security at Desert Financial Arena may be conducting “searches” of all students and adults entering the facility as they would for a regular ASU sponsored event.
- All spectators will pass through metal detectors prior to entering the arena.
- See the following lists for items that will and will not be allowed in the arena.

THE FOLLOWING WILL BE ALLOWED IN THE ARENA

- Bags that are clear plastic, vinyl or PVC and do not exceed 12" x 6" x 12"
- One-gallon clear plastic freezer bag (Ziploc bag or similar)
- Small clutch bags (no larger than 4.5" x 6.5") with or without a handle or strap can be taken into the venue
- Medically necessary items after proper inspection at gates
- Factory sealed water bottles 51 oz. / 1.5 liters or smaller
- Empty non-disposable plastic water bottles • Small retractable umbrellas
- Umbrella strollers
- Service animals
- Seat cushions and chair backs must be 18" or less in width (No pockets, zippers, compartments, or covers)

THE FOLLOWING WILL NOT BE ALLOWED IN THE ARENA

- Soft or hard sided coolers, ice chests
- Glass or metal containers
- Outside beverages
- Tortillas
- Use of tobacco products, including e-cigarettes and smokeless cigarettes/tobacco
- Cameras with detachable lenses greater than 6" or video cameras
- Tripods, monopods, or selfie sticks for cameras/phones
- Full size strollers
- Backpacks, diaper bags and other similar bags will not be allowed
- Bikes, skateboards, scooters, hover boards, long boards
- Large golf umbrellas
- Pitchforks (wood, metal, plastic)
- Sticks, poles or similar objects that can be used as a weapon
- Weapons of any kind including those carried with permit
- Fireworks, drones or laser pointers
- Artificial noisemakers (Example: air horns, thunder Stix, musical instruments, cans filled with contents, whistles, cow bells or any other item used to make artificial noise)
- No pets/animals

To enhance public safety and make stadium access more efficient, Sun Devil Athletics adopted a Clear Bag Policy. Guests may bring in one (1) clear bag no larger than 12" x 6" x 12" or a 1-gallon plastic storage bag. Fans are limited to one clear bag per person, along with a small clutch or purse for privacy. Staff from the ASU Bookstore will be on hand selling bags should you need them.