



NORTH PAULDING HIGH SCHOOL

300 North Paulding Drive
Dallas, Georgia 30132

770-443-9400
Mr. Gabe Carmona, Principal

Dear Senior and Senior Parents,

Congratulations on your child reaching this point in his or her high school career. At the forefront of our thoughts is graduation. We are working diligently to ensure that your child's graduation is memorable.

North Paulding's Commencement will take place on **Thursday, May 21st at 8:00 P.M.** in our stadium. Enclosed with this letter, you will find the following important information about the commencement ceremony:

- General Information
- Behavior Expectations
- Dress Code
- Commencement Practice ***Practice is mandatory to participate in the graduation ceremony***
- Commencement Photos
- Ticket and Parking Information
- Senior April/May 2026 Calendar
- Ceremony will be live streamed through the following link:
 - <https://youtube.com/live/jNye4VyBCis?feature=share>
- Senior Awards Night will be live streamed through this link:
 - https://youtube.com/live/opEw_Usci3E?feature=share
- Laptop return procedures for May 13th

Please closely monitor your senior's behavior and academic progress throughout these last few weeks to ensure that he or she meets all expectations for graduation. If you have any questions regarding academic progress, our counseling department is available to assist you.

Sincerely,

Gabe Carmona
Principal

NORTH PAULDING HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2026

Commencement Information

Seniors and their parents should read all information in this packet carefully. Seniors are responsible for knowing and following all directions and schedules in this packet.

Commencement is an optional, dignified, formal ceremony for graduating seniors and their families and guests. Possession of any disruptive objects or disruptive behavior may lead to immediate removal from the ceremony.

We ask that everyone in attendance please cooperate to make the commencement ceremony the dignified event it is meant to be. Please avoid making any distracting noises that would detract from the decorum of the ceremony. The ceremony is an official function of North Paulding High School; therefore, all Paulding County School District and North Paulding High School policies and rules must be followed.

Commencement

Thursday, May 21st, 2026, at 8:00 P.M.
North Paulding High School Stadium

Senior Arrival

Graduates will need to report to the gym no later than **5:30 P.M. for the ceremony**. We are working diligently to alleviate traffic issues with one way in and one way out. Please use the left lane as you come up the hill. Graduates will be directed by parking staff as to where they are to park when they arrive for the ceremony. Please be dressed and have your cap/gown with you. Report directly to the gym for check-in. **Only graduates will be allowed to enter the building**. Please tell your family and guests to expect heavy traffic in and out of NPHS.

Commencement Parking

Graduation guests will have the use of multiple lots for parking this year. All parking areas will be open at **6:00 P.M.; PLEASE DO NOT ARRIVE BEFORE THIS TIME**. We will have parking at North Paulding High School, McClure Middle School, Burnt Hickory Elementary School, and Burnt Hickory Park located off Highway 61. The offsite lot at Burnt Hickory Park will have multiple shuttle buses that will transport you directly to the front of the stadium. **Buses will start running at 6:30 P.M.** Buses will also have priority when leaving campus. Carpooling is encouraged at all sites. Once a site is full, the Paulding County Sheriff's Department will restrict access to those lots. Golf cart shuttles will be available to limit walking.

Handicap Parking and Seating

For guests with a mobility issue or requiring assistance: Please report to the North Paulding campus (please display a handicap tag if you have one), turn on your hazard (flasher) lights so the parking crew can distinguish you from other vehicles and you will be directed to a specific lot. All lots on the North campus will have golf cart shuttles to assist in transporting our guests from their cars to the stadium. Please only have the person or persons requiring assistance use the carts so that others may use the service. Handicap seating will also be available for those who cannot sit comfortably in the stadium bleachers. Handicap seating will be in designated areas, but only **ONE** other person may be allowed to sit with the person in the area (**no children will be allowed in this area**). We will try our best to accommodate the needs of our visitors.

Tickets

Each senior will be given **6 tickets**. These tickets will allow 6 ticket holders to enter either side of the stadium. **Only ticket holders can attend the graduation ceremony**. Ticket holders may begin entering the stadium at **7:00 P.M.** There are NO reserved seats or areas. Seniors will receive their 6 tickets on **Wednesday, May 21st** during graduation practice. The commencement ceremony will also be live-streamed. Live-stream link: <https://youtube.com/live/jNye4VyBCis?feature=share>

Inclement Weather Plan

If inclement weather occurs the day of Commencement, the ceremony will take place in the gym and auditorium. **Graduates will only receive 2 rain tickets and they will be marked as rain tickets.**

General Graduation Information

Seniors must meet the following requirements for graduation before a diploma will be granted.

1. Graduates must pass all required classes before graduation. The parents of any potential graduates who failed a class will be contacted by the teacher of record by the end of the day **Wednesday, May 13th**. The assigned counselor will also contact the student's parent/guardian to discuss alternative graduation options.
2. **Graduates must meet all financial obligations**, including senior dues, school issued laptop returned, payment for lost textbooks, library fines, etc., and be "**cleared**" by the bookkeeper, Michelle Dietz, before final grades can be given and before the graduate will be allowed to participate in commencement practice. Students will be notified as quickly as possible. Students will have until **Monday, May 18th**, during graduation practice to take care of any outstanding financial obligations; however, senior holds should be paid ***as soon as possible*** to avoid interruptions in graduation practice. ***Payments for financial obligations must be made in cash, cashier's check, or money order and taken to the bookkeeper. No personal checks will be accepted.***

Commencement Practice

ATTENDANCE AT THE COMMENCEMENT PRACTICE IS A **MANDATORY** REQUIREMENT FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY. Graduates must be on time for practice and will not be admitted late or permitted to leave early.

Practice Guidelines:

- Graduates are expected to follow directions explained during practice or they will be excluded from the ceremony.
- Paulding County School District policies and North Paulding High School policies, rules, and expectations are in effect at all commencement practices.
- Dress code is in effect for practice; however, gym shorts are allowed.
- Graduates must have met all financial obligations.
- Practice will end when Dr. Davies has completed everything. The more you listen and do what is necessary, the quicker we can finish.
- Students are not allowed back into the school building for any reason after practice. You must make plans to leave campus once practice is over.

DATE	EVENT	TIME & PLACE
Monday May 18th	<p><i>Graduation Practice</i> <i>ALL FINES MUST BE PAID, INCLUDING SENIOR DUES, LAPTOPS, CHARGER, LAPTOP CASE AND ALL BOOKS MUST BE RETURNED.</i> Transcripts will be given out Practice is in the gym</p>	8:45 A.M. in the gym
Tuesday May 19th	<p><i>Graduation Practice</i> Honor Medals will be distributed. Bring water to drink for outside practice. Ladies should bring the shoes they plan to wear. Students will be dismissed from the stadium as soon as practice is over.</p>	8:45 A.M. in the gym
Wednesday May 20th	<p><i>Graduation Practice</i> Graduation Tickets will be distributed. Bring water to drink for outside practice. Ladies should bring the shoes they plan to wear. Students will be dismissed from the stadium as soon as practice is over.</p>	8:45 A.M. in the stadium

Ceremony Behavior

- All policies, rules, and expectations of the school and the Paulding County School District will be enforced. Graduates must remain properly dressed throughout the ceremony.
- Possession of any disruptive objects may lead to immediate removal from the ceremony.
- Graduates should not bring valuables (cameras, phones, purses, etc.) to the ceremony. No one is available to monitor their valuables.
- Graduates must arrive on time, follow directions, and cooperate fully during the ceremony. Disruptive graduates will be removed and not allowed to participate in the ceremony.

Each graduate at NPHS deserves to hear his or her name during the graduation ceremony. The announcers cannot stop and pause for excessive noise following **one** graduate's name, or we would have to delay the ceremony. Please be respectful of the formal nature of the ceremony, but more importantly be respectful of your fellow graduates. No noise makers, beach balls, horns, or bells of any kind should be used on the field or by the audience. Please remind your parents and others planning to attend that we truly want to honor every graduate. Seniors on the field can be removed for rude or obtrusive behavior.

Honor Graduates

Any senior with a weighted grade point average (GPA) of **89.5** and above will be recognized as an honor graduate. These students will receive honor medals to wear over the top of their gown. These will be distributed at graduation practice. On top of wearing the medal, these graduates are also honored by being allowed to graduate first. Honor graduates will line up alphabetically at the beginning of the line.

Valedictorian/Salutatorian

These highly esteemed positions are earned by the senior with the highest GPA and the student with the second highest GPA. These students will not only be honored with the title but will also be recognized during the ceremony and have the chance to speak to the graduating class. These students will work with Mr. Davies to write an appropriate/approved speech.

Awards Night

On **Tuesday, May 5th, 2026**, we will host senior awards night in the stadium (weather permitting) at **NPHS at 7:00 P.M.** (Students receiving awards arrive at **5:30** and report to the cafeteria) Seniors will receive invitations if they are being recognized for an award, special scholarship or being awarded an honor cord from a club or organization. Family is invited to attend to see the accolades and success of many of our seniors. Students involved in this evening will receive specific directions from club or faculty sponsor or counselor. Seniors, please dress appropriately. This event will also be live streamed:

https://youtube.com/live/opEw_Usci3E?feature=share

Baccalaureate

This is a religious based service that honors the graduates. This is not a required event, but one that is planned by students and parents. The service is scheduled for **Monday, May 11th at 7:00 P.M. at Westridge Church**. Students should plan on wearing their gown. Please invite your family and friends.

Graduate Attire

Caps and gowns must be worn by graduating seniors. If you have not ordered a cap/gown, please contact Herff Jones ASAP. Please steam or hang the gown before commencement; do NOT hem or iron commencement gowns. Only those in proper attire will be allowed in the processional.

You may not alter the appearance of the cap and gown in any **way** including the top and rim of the cap. **DO NOT under any circumstances place any numbers, letters, images, or items of any kind on the top of the mortarboard for decoration. Your tassel is your decoration.**

The only addition to any cap and gown outfit will be honor recognitions. **Students who have received cords, sashes, medals, or stoles as an honor recognition from a recognized school organization can be worn during graduation. Cords and stoles from outside organizations will not be allowed to be worn.**

Ladies: Please wear a dress underneath your gowns. While you may wear heels, you must have a strap that prevents your shoes from flopping. Also, be careful of the type of heel; stiletto type heels are not allowed. These shoes are a safety hazard. They will go into the field and possibly cause you to trip, especially since we have a turf field. ***Bring your shoes to practice on Tuesday and Wednesday.***

Men: Please wear dress pants, white dress shirt with a tie, and dress shoes. No shorts or jeans will be allowed. **No flip flops or tennis shoes of any kind are allowed.**

Commencement Photos

To maintain the dignity of the ceremony, guests must remain in their seats throughout the Commencement Ceremony. Family and guests will NOT be permitted in the stage area to take videos or photos. Only hand-held cameras that do not block the view of other guests may be used.

We have arranged for Cady Studios to take commencement photos. Cady Studios will email you the proofs for you to preview and purchase.

Diplomas

During the ceremony, students are handed the diploma cover but not the actual diploma to prevent any mix ups. Immediately following graduation ceremony, seniors will report back to the gym to pick up a packet of information including the diploma and any personal items they left behind. **ONLY seniors** will be allowed to go back in the building.

Emergency Assistance

If anyone needs assistance, faculty will be present through the stadium. We will also have Paulding County Deputies on site, along with medical professionals should an incident arise. Our field house will be used as a cooling station and/or emergency location. In addition, Paulding County Deputies will be assisting with parking, gate control, and crowd safety.

Laptop Returns

District issued laptops, laptop chargers, and laptop cases will be collected on **May 13th, 2026, from 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM** in the Media Center for graduating seniors only. See the flyer from the school district on the following page for more information.



Engage. Inspire. Prepare.

Process For Returning Student Laptops

Dear Parents,

As we approach the end of the school year, we would like to inform you about the process for returning your student's school-issued laptop. In May, we will be collecting (the) school-issued laptops from graduating students. We will collect laptops, power cords, and laptop cases from all graduating Seniors on May 13th from 8:00 -3:00 in the Media Center.

In addition to returning their school-issued laptop on the date listed above, students will also need to return their charger and the laptop case on that same day. All three items must be turned in on the date listed above to consider the return process complete for your child. Prior to turning in the school-issued laptop, charger, and case, any stickers or decorations placed on the laptop, charger, or case by your child must be removed. Please **DO NOT** remove any school barcodes or original device labels.

PLEASE RETURN:

- Laptop (any stickers added must be removed)
- Power cord/charger
- Laptop case



Should any damage be found to the school-issued laptop, charger, and/or case during the collection process, a fine will be placed on your (the) child's school account (if any damages are found) and a letter requesting payment will be sent home. Of special note for parents of students planning to graduate this spring/summer, any fines must be paid in advance of and in order to participate in graduation ceremonies. If any item is missing or damaged, replacements can be purchased through the school district's (county's) Revtrak website at <https://paulding.revtrak.net/central-office/technology-department/>.

Thank you for your cooperation in ensuring the (smooth) return of these valuable educational resources.

April/May 2026 Senior Events and Testing/Exam Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27 EOC: Am. Lit Section 1	28 EOC: Am. Lit. Section 2 and 3	29	30 EOC: Algebra 1	1 EOC: Biology	2
3	4 AP Testing: AM: Biology PM: European Hist. PM: Microeconomics EOC: US History	5 AP Testing: AM: Chemistry AM: Human Geog. PM: US Gov't SENIOR AWARDS 7:00 P.M. – Stadium in the stadium	6 AP Testing: AM: Eng. Lit. & Comp.	7 AP Testing: AM: World History PM: Statistics	8 AP Testing: AM: US History AM: Art and Design	9
10	11 AP Testing: AM: Calculus AB AM: Calculus BC - Senior Picnic & Senior Yearbook Distribution - Baccalaureate West Ridge Church 7:00 PM	12 AP Testing: PM: Psychology Senior Exams 3rd and 4th block	13 AP Testing: AM: Eng. Lang. & Comp. PM: Physics C – Mechanics Senior Exams 1st and 2nd block	14 AP Testing: AM: Spanish Lang. & Culture PM: Computer Science Principles	15 AP Testing: AM: Environ. Science PM: Computer Science A	16
17	18 Senior Graduation Practice – (report to the gym at 8:45 a.m.) Underclassmen Awards 2:00-3:15	19 Senior Graduation Practice – (report to the gym at 8:45 a.m.) Underclassman Finals	20 Senior Graduation Practice – (report to the stadium at 8:45) Underclassman Finals	21 Graduation Ceremony 8:00 P.M. <u>Students arrive no later than 5:30 P.M.</u>	22	23