Derry Township School District
Administrative Office • 30A East Granada Avenue • P.O. Box 898 • Hershey, PA 17033
Phone (717) 534-2501 • Fax (717) 533-4357 • www.hershey.k12.pa.us

April 10, 2026

Dear HHS Senior Parents/Guardians,

As we navigate through the final marking period of the 2025-2026 school year, this is an exciting time for not only our students, but for their families as well. I would like to take this opportunity to share some key dates and information with you that pertain to the end of the school year.

Commencement is scheduled for Wednesday, June 3rd, at 7:00pm at the Giant Center. We are honored once again to be holding this year's commencement ceremony at this impressive venue. Please see an attached sheet for additional information about commencement (tickets, parking, rehearsal, attire, etc.). Live streaming will be offered and the link to this live stream will be located on the school district's website on the day of the ceremony. We recognize the importance of student voice and expression. However, for this event, students are not permitted to decorate their cap for the ceremony. In the event that a student does, they may be asked not to participate in the ceremony.

Beginning in early May of this year, school staff will be in touch with any students who have outstanding financial obligation(s). Outstanding obligations for seniors (i.e. textbooks, unpaid fees, lost items, etc.) must be satisfied by Thursday, May 21, 2026. Students who do not satisfy these obligations will be prohibited from participating in the Commencement Ceremony.

Parents/Guardians of seniors may contact the food service office between May 22, 2026, and June 25, 2026, at 717-531-2217 regarding cafeteria accounts. Parents may request a transfer of funds to a siblings account or obtain a refund of any remaining account balance on your student's food service account.

Enclosed with this letter is information related to various senior activities. Please review this critical information with your senior and direct any questions to the senior class advisors, Mrs. Ogle (logle@hershey.k12.pa.us) or Mr. Mackneer (jmackneer@hershey.k12.pa.us).

Roses and Commemorative T-shirts will be available for purchase to benefit the Hershey Education Association's Scholarship Fund. The flowers and shirts can be purchased at the Giant Center on the evening of Commencement, or they can be pre-ordered online via the following website: https://www.thecommencementgroup.com/hersheyhs/

It is important that in the last several weeks of school that our seniors focus on a strong finish as they approach graduation. I look forward to sharing in the events and activities ahead that will serve to celebrate the wonderful achievements of Hershey High School's Class of 2026.

With Grace and Purpose,

Lindsey Schmidt
Principal
Hershey High School

Hershey High School
Commencement Information
Wednesday, June 3, 2026 – 7:00 pm

Program

The commencement program begins promptly at 7:00 pm at the Giant Center. Because of expected traffic congestion, you should plan to arrive by 6:30 pm. Please note the doors of the Giant Center will open at 5:30 pm.

Traffic and Parking

Please follow directions at the Giant Center for parking. Handicap parking is also available. When you enter, please mention that you are attending HHS Commencement and you will not be required to pay a parking fee.

Entrance to the Giant Center

All attendees must have a ticket to enter the Giant Center for the commencement program. There is no admission without a ticket. Doors open at 5:30 pm. Each graduate will have been given ten (10) tickets during rehearsal earlier in the day. Seniors must report by 6:00 pm to the Giant Center, and all parents and visitors are asked to be seated by 6:50 pm. We suggest pictures are taken before Commencement.

Everyone in attendance will go through Security (metal detectors will be in use and bags will be searched). Hershey Park Entertainment Complex and the Giant Center prohibit large bags inside its venues in accordance with event guidelines and security best practices. This includes backpacks, large purses, clear bags, fanny packs, camera bags, drawstring bags, totes and suitcases. Weapons of any kind are prohibited. Balloons are not permitted.

Hand clutches, wristlets and small purses are permitted but are subject to search and must not exceed 5" x 8" x 1".

Exceptions for bags are as follows: A medical equipment bag and/or a parenting needs bag smaller than 14" x 14" x 6" and all exceptions must go through metal detection screening at entry and are subject to physical search.

For Students

Students are required to report to the Giant Center by 6:00 pm.

All students must wear appropriate dress and footwear (including their school-issued cap and gown) in order to participate in the program. For boys, this includes a collared dress shirt and necktie, dress slacks, and shoes (no sneakers or sandals). Girls are required to wear a dress, skirt, or pants suit with appropriate shoes (no flip flops). For this event, students are not permitted to decorate their cap for the ceremony. Those choosing not to wear appropriate attire (as described here) will not be permitted to participate in the commencement program.

Finally, seniors are to report to the Giant Center for Commencement Practice on Wednesday (6/3/26) at 9:30 am. Dismissal for students occurs upon the conclusion of practice at the Giant Center (at approximately 12:00 pm). Students must be prompt and attend the practice session in order to participate in the program that evening. If you cannot provide transportation, please contact Mrs. Ogle at logle@hershey.k12.pa.us.



HERSHEY HIGH SCHOOL

INFORMATION BULLETIN -- SENIOR ACTIVITIES -- CLASS OF 2026

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2026

Senior Dinner - 5:30 pm

Hershey High School

The Senior Dinner will be catered by Mangia Mangia and served in the HHS Cafeteria. After dinner, the seniors will go to the Auditorium for the unveiling of the Senior Superlatives as well as the evening's entertainment: a Hypnotist Show! We will then head back to the cafeteria for some light desserts.

FRIDAY, MAY 22, 2026

Cap & Gown distribution and Senior Meeting - 7:33 am

Hershey High Auditorium - Seniors report directly to the auditorium. During this meeting, the seniors will have the opportunity to return their iPads if they are no longer needed.

Dismissal for seniors after distribution.

Senior Prom - 6:15 pm – 11:00 pm

Hotel Hershey (black tie optional)

The Hershey Gardens will be open from 5:00 – 6:00 pm for students attending the prom and their families to take pictures. There is no admittance fee.

TUESDAY, MAY 26, 2026

Senior Breakfast and Senior Walk

Seniors will report to school at normal time and go to period 1. After attendance is taken in period 1, students will be dismissed to the cafeteria for a breakfast provided by HHS. Seniors on flex campus will need to log in on the iPads in the office and report to the cafeteria. Seniors will have the opportunity to return their iPads if they are no longer needed. We will then walk as a class through the high school, middle school, and elementary schools. Seniors will need to bring their cap and gown with them to school in order to participate in the Senior Walk. Seniors will be dismissed upon conclusion of the Senior Walk.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2026

Senior Class trip to Hershey Park

Seniors who signed up for the trip should report to Milton's Ice Cream Parlor at the entrance to Hershey Park at 10:00 am. Students not attending the trip will be expected to be in school.

Please Note: If a senior needs to take a Period 10 Final Exam, it will be given from 7:35 – 9:05 at the high school prior to students going to Hershey Park.

THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2026

Senior Awards Program - 6:30 pm

Hershey High Auditorium

Recipients will be notified by administration.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 2026

Rehearsal for Commencement – 9:30 am

The Giant Center

Dismissal for seniors after rehearsal

NOTE: No district transportation for seniors. If transportation is needed, email Mrs. Ogle at LOgle@hershey.k12.pa.us.

COMMENCEMENT – 7:00 pm

The Giant Center

Doors open at 5:30 pm

(Seniors report no later than 6:00 pm to the Giant Center.)

BEAUTIFUL BOUQUETS & CUSTOM CLASS T-SHIRTS



that feature every single graduate's name on the back!

Available for purchase at the Hershey HS Graduation!

PREORDER AHEAD OF TIME TO PICK UP YOUR ORDER ONSITE!



THECOMMENCEMENTGROUP.COM/HERSHEYHS

HERSHEY GARDENS

Hershey High School Prom Photos at Hershey Gardens

Hershey Gardens is pleased to offer this privilege to the students and families of Hershey High School for their prom on Friday, May 22, 2026. In order to accommodate the large crowds, the Gardens will close to the public at 5:00 PM for prom photos. Please read the following guidelines and information about traffic patterns prior to your visit.

Rules & Guidelines:

Students and family members may enter the Gardens through Gate 1 (upper parking lot) beginning at 5:00 p.m. after the Gardens has closed to the public and can stay until 6:00 pm. The Gardens will be cleared of all prom guests at 6:00 p.m. We will attempt to get some parking assistance from Hersheypark for that evening.

Students and family members will enter ONLY at the turnstile gate entrance (upper parking lot area) as the Conservatory building and main entrance will be closed for the evening.

Please handle all corsage and boutonnieres before entering the Gardens to alleviate trash concerns.

Appropriate guest behavior is expected, i.e., no standing on benches, climbing trees, etc. to obtain photographs. Fixtures of the Gardens including benches and decorative elements may not be moved.

The use of any unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), commonly known as "Drones," on or above Gardens property, is not permitted.

All attendees must stay on either the grassy areas or on the walkways – walking in garden beds is prohibited.

We look forward to seeing you on Friday, May 22!

**Note – The Rose Garden Pavilion is expected to be under construction until August. Please plan accordingly if guests are planning to stage photos in front of or around the Conservatory.*