



Wausau West High School Guide to Graduation 2026

Dear Families & Graduates ~

Congratulations Class of 2026! Graduation is just around the corner, a moment filled with excitement, pride, and possibility. It's a time to celebrate how far you've come, reflect on the memories you've made, and appreciate the encouragement and support from family and friends who helped you along the way. As you turn the page to this next chapter, look ahead with confidence, dream boldly and embrace every opportunity that comes your way. On behalf of the administration and faculty, we wish you continued success and happiness in all that lies ahead.

Curt Richardt, Principal

DATES TO REMEMBER

Wednesday, April 8: Senior Meeting - 7:41 a.m.
Wausau West Auditorium.

Tuesday, April 14: 10:40 a.m.— 1:00 p.m. Jostens
delivery of graduation items in the Commons.

Monday, May 4: Honor cords available for purchase (\$2.50) in the Business Office for those with a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher. You will receive an email if you qualify.

Thursday, May 7: Senior Meeting - 7:41 a.m.
Wausau West Auditorium.

Monday, May 11: Starting at 7:30 a.m.—Mrs. Belinas will begin distributing 8 tickets for students cleared to participate in the graduation ceremony. Please bring your 2025-26 West ID.

Wednesday, May 13: 6:30 p.m.—Senior Award Night. Wausau West Auditorium. Seniors involved will receive an invitation in the mail.

Saturday, May 16: 7:00-10:30pm - East/West Graduation Party at the YMCA, Wausau.

Thursday, May 21: Seniors' last day of school.

Monday, May 25: 7:00 p.m. Wausau Baccalaureate Ceremony held at Wausau West Auditorium.

Friday, May 29: 9:00 a.m.—Senior Walk at elementary/middle schools. Meet at the flagpole at Wausau West. 11:00 a.m.—Graduation practice at Wausau West. 12:00 p.m.—Additional graduation tickets become available for student pick up following practice.

Saturday, May 30: 3:00 p.m. Graduation held at Wausau West Fieldhouse.

GRADUATION ITEMS

All graduates participating in the ceremony are required to wear a Wausau West blue cap and gown. Caps and gowns were ordered in November from Jostens and will be delivered, along with other ordered items on Tuesday, April 14, from 10:40am—1:00pm. If a student was not able to order their cap and gown earlier, they may purchase one (after April 14th) in the West Main Office for \$50. Separate fees: \$15 tassel, \$15 cap, and \$20 gown.

Please make checks payable to Jostens.

NOTE: Blue gowns from past West graduations may also be used. Graduates may use a sibling's cap/gown, but will need to purchase a current year tassel.

SENIOR MEETINGS

Required senior meetings are scheduled for April 8th and May 7th at 7:41 a.m. in the Auditorium at Wausau West. Information and procedures about graduation will be reviewed. Students - Please make every effort to attend! Important information will be shared with you.

HONOR CORDS

Seniors who earn a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher after seven semesters at a school approved by West administration will earn the right to wear an honor cord during the graduation ceremony. Cords may be purchased for \$2.50 from the West Business Office beginning May 4th.

COMMENCEMENT

The graduation ceremony will take place on Saturday, May 30, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. at the Wausau West Fieldhouse. Seniors must report no later than 2:15 p.m. and be lined up for the processional by 2:30 p.m.

SEATING

All attendees must be seated in designated seating areas in our bleachers. Guests who are unable to be seated in our bleachers will have limited seating available in chairs on the floor in the Fieldhouse at Wausau West.

COMMENCEMENT PHOTOS

Each graduate is photographed by Empire Photography as they receive their diploma and a solo portrait is also taken after they exit the stage. Pre-register at www.empirephotos.com/gradregistration so you can receive your complimentary proofs quickly. If you have any questions, please email Empire Photography at customerservice@empirephotos.com.

GRADUATION GUESTS

The ceremony is scheduled to take place in the Wausau West Fieldhouse. Each graduate will be allowed 8 tickets. Graduation will be live streamed into our Auditorium and online for others to view. Only students cleared for graduation will be able to attend the ceremony. Doors will open at 2:00 p.m.

LAST DAY FOR SENIORS

The last day for seniors will be Thursday, May 21st. Students are expected to have returned all books and materials, cleaned out their lockers, and paid all fines, fees, and lab costs prior to leaving school on the 21st. Seniors **will** be held accountable for their attendance in school through their last scheduled day.

WAUSAU BACCALAUREATE CEREMONY

The Wausau Baccalaureate Ceremony for all 2026 high school graduates in the area will be held on Monday, May 25th, at the Wausau West High School Auditorium. Seniors, please arrive at 6:30 p.m. in your cap and gown with the ceremony beginning at 7:00 p.m. The theme this year is, "Unshaken" with Aaron Keller as Keynote Speaker. No tickets are necessary. For additional information or questions, please contact Carrie Budleski at carrieluke1@hotmail.com.

DIPLOMA PICK-UP

Graduates will be able to pick up their diplomas immediately following the graduation ceremony in designated rooms at Wausau West.

WHAT TO WEAR

Students are asked to dress appropriately for the graduation ceremony. Corsages on graduation gowns will not be allowed. It is also requested that students not bring valuables since there is no place to keep them.

MILITARY SERVICE

If you have enlisted in the military, please contact Mr. Joe Kelter at jkelter@wausauschools.org or 715-261-0891, to inform him of your intentions.

EAST/WEST SENIOR CELEBRATION

Hosted by the Wausau School Foundation, this event has been planned for Saturday, May 16, from 7:00-10:30pm, held at the YMCA, Wausau.

Free Admission! Food, prizes, dodgeball, basketball, pickleball, and more - hypnotist, DJ and fun casino!

Sign-up at [Senior Celebration 2026](#).

Please contact Deb at wdfound@wausauschools.org with questions.

GRADUATION PRACTICE/ SCHOOL VISITS

Senior Walk at elementary schools and John Muir will be held on Friday, May 29th. Interested seniors will meet at 9:00 a.m. at the flagpole outside the main office at Wausau West.

Graduation practice will begin at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, May 29th at Wausau West.

