

May 1, 2026

Dear Parents/Guardians of Senior Students,

It is truly hard to believe that your child's senior year of high school is quickly coming to an end. As the calendar turns to May, activity at the high school increases significantly. Spring sports are in full swing, along with Spring Day, Music concerts, and a variety of other events. It is also not too soon to begin focusing on graduation.

When these young men and women entered high school, many were unsure of what to expect. Although we had moved beyond COVID, the educational landscape had changed drastically ... and continues to evolve. Along with education, cultural norms have also shifted in many ways.

Each year, I like to reflect on what the senior class has contributed to our school community. This particular class is made up of kind and motivated students. Many entered high school with a clear plan for their coursework and have achieved strong academic success. They are a cohesive group who support one another, even in competition. They give generously of their time and are truly invested in their community. Many have mentored elementary students and contributed to supporting our local senior citizens.

I appreciate the opportunity to share these reflections with you. I would also like to outline what to expect in the coming weeks. If you have any concerns regarding your child's eligibility for graduation, please contact me or Mr. Kevin Wertz as soon as possible. Also, please note that all school fines, dues, and obligations must be satisfied in order for students to receive graduation tickets and participate in the ceremony.

The Chromebook and Blue Bomber Academy device return / pick-up is scheduled for May 29 and June 1. Please ensure that your child brings both the device and charger on one of these days. If you are paying an outstanding balance by check, please make it payable to the Palmerton Area School District.

Keystone Exams

Students in grades 9 through 11 will take Keystone Exams on May 11, 12, 13, 14, 18, and 19. These will be regular school days for seniors.

AP (Advanced Placement) Exams

- May 4 – AP Economics

- May 6 – AP Literature
 - May 11 – AP Calculus
 - May 13 – AP Language
 - May 14 – AP Computer Science
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Graduation Tickets

During the week of May 11, seniors can request graduation tickets in the Guidance Office. Initially, requests will be limited to ten (10) tickets per student. Students who anticipate needing additional tickets should notify their guidance counselor and sign up for extras. Blue Bomber Academy students may e-mail their request to Mr. Kevin Wertz.

Tickets will be distributed on June 3 following graduation practice. Caps and gowns will be distributed on May 21 in the High School Auditorium.

Senior Awards Ceremony

The Senior Awards Ceremony will be held on May 28 at 7:00 PM in the High School Auditorium. Invitations will be mailed to students receiving awards.

Final Exams

Senior final exams are scheduled for May 29 and June 1. June 2 will serve as a make-up day for students who have a valid excuse. Seniors are expected to be present for all scheduled exams. Make-ups will only be permitted for emergencies or with appropriate documentation.

Baccalaureate Program

The student-led Baccalaureate Program will take place on June 1, 2026 at 7:00 PM at Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church, 500 Church Drive, Palmerton / Trachsville. Students are asked to sign up in the Guidance Office if they plan to attend, though all are welcome.

Graduation Ceremony Information and Requirements

Graduation practice will be held on June 3 and, if needed, June 4. Seniors should arrive by

9:00 AM. Attendance at practice is required in order to participate in the ceremony. Students needing transportation should contact me or Mr. Wertz.

The Graduation Ceremony will begin at 7:00 PM on June 4 in the stadium. Seniors should report to the High School Gymnasium by 6:00 PM. The rain date is June 5 at 7:00 PM. If weather is a concern, we will communicate any changes as soon as possible.

Proper attire is required:

- **Young women:** dress slacks, dresses, or skirts with appropriate dress shoes (no pointed heels; wedges or flats only on turf)
- **Young men:** dress shirts with ties (or collared shirts), dress pants (no jeans), and dress shoes

Sunglasses are permitted if needed. All cell phones must be turned off during the ceremony to avoid interference with the sound system. Headphones and other electronic devices are not permitted.

Everyone has worked very hard to reach this important milestone. Graduation is a meaningful ceremony marking a significant life achievement. We ask that all participants treat the event with the respect and dignity it deserves. Personal celebrations can follow at gatherings such as the senior parent-sponsored graduation party.

As always, if you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Paula A. Husar
Principal