

Baldwin Preparatory Academy



Class of 2026 Graduation Information

Date, Time, and Location

- Graduation Date: May 18, 2026
- Time: 7:00 PM
- Location: Foley Event Center at OWA

Parking and Handicap Accessibility

The event center provides a designated handicap-accessible area. Please present your handicap parking decal to the parking attendant to access this section of the lot. Designated accessible seating will be available inside the venue, with seating for one accompanying guest. Parking is not allowed at the TownePlace Suites by Marriott Foley at OWA next to the venue. Please refer to the parking map attached to this message with available spots. We recommend allowing extra time to park and enter the event center for a smooth arrival.

Mandatory Graduation Practice

Graduation practice is mandatory and will occur on Monday, 5/18 at 9:00am at the Foley Event Center.

Graduation Tickets

Each graduate will receive 20 tickets to share with family and friends in their graduation packet distributed on April 27th. Per the fire marshall, all guests regardless of age are required to have a ticket. If you need additional tickets, we encourage you to connect with another senior who may not be using all of theirs. You must have an additional ticket to re-enter if you leave during the ceremony. Our goal is for everyone to celebrate this special day with their loved ones!

Photography

Families are welcome to take photos before and after the ceremony. To ensure all guests have a clear, unobstructed view, we ask that everyone remain seated during the ceremony.

Professional photos will be taken by Jim Owens as each graduate receives their diploma. Additionally, on May 18th, Jim Owens will be available during graduation rehearsal at 10:00 AM to offer optional pre-posed photos in front of the BPA backdrop. Students who wish to participate should arrive at rehearsal dressed in their cap and gown.

A link will be provided following the event for families to view and purchase photos.

Senior Dress Code

Caps and gowns are required and may not be altered in any way, including messages or decorations. Only BPA-approved honor cords, pins, and medals may be worn with gowns. Seniors may not decorate their mortar boards. Cap and Gowns were distributed starting on Monday, April 27th.

Boys:

- Black dress slacks
- White dress shirt
- Black dress shoes
- Black tie

Girls:

- Knee-length solid white dress or black pants with a white dress shirt
- Black dress shoes

Important Notes:

- All students must wear shoes. Tennis shoes, flip-flops, or crocs are not permitted.
- Male students should remove mortarboards during the Pledge of Allegiance and National Anthem.
- Tassels are worn on the right side of the mortarboard and moved to the left side when exiting the stage.
- Graduation cords are only allowed from the following organizations: NTHS, Mu Alpha Theta, NHS, and Girls/Boys State

Diploma Pickup

Graduates may pick up their diplomas from Tuesday, May 19th through Friday, May 22nd at the front office from the bookkeeper.

- All fees must be paid in full before diploma pickup.
- Students will receive their diploma covers at graduation, and the actual diplomas can be collected during this pickup window.

Graduation Conduct Guidelines

To ensure a dignified and memorable ceremony, the following expectations are in place:

- The ceremony will promptly begin at 7:00pm. The doors to the event center will temporarily close during the processional as the graduates walk in. Once the processional has ended, the doors will open back up for guests to enter.
- Students are expected to arrive ceremony-ready. Any senior found possessing or under the influence of alcohol, tobacco, or drugs prior to the ceremony will not be permitted to participate and may face additional consequences.
- We ask that all guests also refrain from using alcohol or tobacco products before and during the ceremony to help maintain a respectful and family-friendly environment.

- Disruptive or uncooperative behavior (jeering, shouting, etc.) may result in removal from the ceremony.
- Cell phone use by students during the ceremony is not permitted and may result in removal.
- Appropriate attire is required for participation. Any concerns about dress should be addressed prior to graduation.
- To help us create a positive experience for all guests, we ask that you do not bring the following items into the Foley Event Center: animals, confetti, glitter, paint, balloons, fatheads, or noisemakers. Please avoid items that could disrupt the ceremony, limit visibility, affect sound, or require extensive cleanup.

Arrival for Graduates

- Graduates must be at the event center line-up area by 5:30 PM on graduation night.
- Seniors must park in the designated senior parking lot. Vehicles that park in the hotel's parking lot will be towed.
- An air conditioned bus will be available starting at 5:15pm and will depart at 5:45pm to the venue. All graduates must be in their assigned line-up area by 6:00pm.