SWEET HOME CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
of Amherst and Tonawanda

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Amherst, NY 14228

Sweet Home High School
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Dear Parents and Seniors:

Over the next several weeks, some of the most significant events in your student's life will take place. The most important is obviously graduation. In this letter you will find important information concerning Senior Day, the Senior Prom and Graduation. I urge you and your student to read carefully what is shared with you. It is imperative that seniors follow all the details and directions listed.

June 3 - Last Class Day for Seniors

All seniors are to attend classes this day. Some might have local finals to take or might have final preparations for a regents exam(s) they must pass for graduation. It is also a final opportunity for seniors to bid farewell to their teachers and staff. Seniors will follow their normal school day schedule. This will be an opportunity for students to turn in all Sweet Home materials that belong to the school. It is strongly suggested that seniors verify with their teachers and coaches, in advance of Senior Day, that they do not have any outstanding debts or obligations to the school. This will make clearing seniors a fast and easy process on June 4th.

June 4 - Senior Day

All graduating seniors are required to attend Senior Day when they will receive detailed instructions, information and to practice in preparation for graduation on June 25th. Seniors will also receive their "Cleared for Graduation" status and obtain their graduation tickets on this day. We will follow the time order listed below:

7:30 AM - Senior Breakfast - Large Cafeteria
8:00 AM - Graduation Practice and Expectations - Auditorium

Senior Class Advisors, Ms. Pinkowski and Mr. Harriger, will go over graduation, general information, expectations, and directions for the June 25th Commencement Ceremony. Students will get information about processions, student arrival times for the event, meeting locations for graduates, and a breakdown of the ceremony. After our senior class advisors have reviewed all necessary information and expectations for the commencement ceremony, students will be directed to pick up their graduation tickets. Seniors must have been cleared for graduation in order to obtain their graduation tickets. During this time, students may return all of their necessary items needed for a "cleared for graduation" status. Please note that many of these items such as ipads or athletic uniforms/equipment can be

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turned in before June 4th. Graduation tickets will be available for pick up from June 4th - June 24th in the Assistant Principals' Office after all required materials have been turned in. The following requirements are needed to be "Cleared for Graduation":

- Senior Survey completed.
- Senior Graduation Procession Card completed.
- Seniors must turn in their ipads to Mrs. Mussachio or Mr. Szabo in the library.
- Seniors must turn in any athletic equipment to the Athletic Office.
- Seniors must turn in any text books to teachers or to the Assistance Principals' Office.
- Seniors must be in good standing in all course requirements for graduation.

A student who owes any items required for clearance will not be given graduation tickets until they are fully cleared. Once the student has cleared their outstanding obligations to the school, students can receive their graduation tickets in the Assistant Principals' Office.

10:00 AM - Middle and Elementary Schools /Graduation Procession
Our students will be traveling to our middle school and elementary buildings with their graduation gowns to walk through the buildings, see former teachers, staff, principals, and to give our younger Panthers a true sense of "beginning with the end in mind". Any student who does not wish to attend the school visits, will stay back at the high school.

ALL STUDENTS MUST TAKE THE BUSES PROVIDED TO ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS!!!
ABSOLUTELY NO OTHER VEHICLES ARE TO BE USED

12:00 PM - Senior Cookout and Lawn Games
Seniors will enjoy a cookout lunch at the concession stand. Lawn games will be available for some friendly competition with one another. Seniors are able to leave if they have their own transportation. Any student who needs transportation will report to the Senior Lounge for the remainder of the day for regular dismissal. We hope our seniors have a wonderful last few weeks here at the high school. If you have questions on any of the above information, please feel free to contact Senior Class Advisors, Ms. Pinkowski at kpinkowski@sweethomeschools.org or Mr. Harriger at sharriger@sweethomeschools.org.

June 8/9 - Senior Academic Make Up Days
These two days give seniors an opportunity to make up any incomplete work that is required for graduation.

June 11 - Senior Prom
The Senior Prom will be held at the Wurlitzer Events Center, 908 Niagara Falls Blvd, North Tonawanda from 6:00 - 10:00 PM. As with any school event, students are expected to behave in accordance with our code of conduct. Violations to our policies regarding vaping, alcohol or illegal substances will result not only in suspensions, but the inability to participate in the graduation ceremony. Students are

expected to arrive no later than 6:30 PM. Once a student leaves the prom, they cannot return. Our most important expectation is for our seniors and their guests to have a safe and enjoyable time.

June 15 - Senior Awards Night

- Award winners will receive notification by mail during the first week of June.
- All awards and scholarships will be hand delivered to residence between the hours of 6:00 - 8:00 PM.
- If you will not be available during these hours, kindly inform our Student Services Office by calling 716-250-1396.

JUNE 25 - GRADUATION

I would like to invite you to attend the Sweet Home High School's 2026 Commencement Ceremony on Thursday, June 25, 2026. I hope you will plan on joining the school staff in honoring our graduates at the ceremony to be held at the Center for the Arts, University at Buffalo, North Campus. All graduates are requested to arrive at the center **no later than 4:30 PM.** Graduates should not bring personal items (sunglasses, purses, etc.) with them since they will not be returning to the waiting area. Doors open for guests at **5:00 PM.** The ceremony begins at **6:00 PM.**

All tickets will be General Admission. Graduates do NOT need a ticket. Each graduate is given **four** tickets for guests. Please note there will be no reserved seating. Unclaimed tickets will become available on Tuesday, June 16th. If you would like an extra ticket, please **do NOT call the school**. The QR Code below will take you to a Google form that will allow you to request extra tickets. Your name will be entered into a lottery drawing. Depending on the number of requests, you might receive less than the number requested. If your name is drawn, you will receive an email notification by 3:00 PM on June 18th. Only those receiving additional tickets will be notified. These tickets must be picked up in the AP Office NO LATER than 3:00 PM on June 23rd.

Because we are renting this venue from UB, we must follow their policies. They are as follows:

- NO ONE will be permitted to save seats for late arriving guests.
- No standing room. Everyone admitted to the theater must be seated.
- No food or drink, *including bottled water*, is permitted in the theater.
- Seating in the wheelchair row will be at the discretion of the Center for the Arts' House Manager and is reserved only for handicapped patrons with tickets. Only one additional guest with a ticket may be seated with each disabled patron in the handicapped area.

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Dress Code

We ask your assistance in ensuring that students are dressed appropriately for this ceremony. Students must be wearing caps and gowns to participate in the exercise. Proper attire under the gowns should include:

- **Acceptable:** dress shirt and tie, long pants, dress or skirt and blouse, dress shoes and socks, closed graduation gown
- **Not Acceptable:** flip-flops, shorts, open graduation gown

I ask for your cooperation in making this graduation ceremony a service of dignity and honor to all present. Graduation is a time of celebration because it signifies that your son or daughter has successfully completed requirements that will allow them to move to the next phase of their life. To that end, it is our goal to have a graduation ceremony that reflects the dignity of this event. Inappropriate behavior by students or guests will not be tolerated during the ceremony. We will be addressing these issues with students and would appreciate your support.

Cap and Gown Decorating and Altering

We understand that some students want to individually decorate their cap for a variety of reasons. Please take into consideration the following rules when decorating your graduation cap. Failure to follow these rules will result in the removal of the cap at the ceremony and may result in your senior not participating in the graduation ceremony.

Cap Decoration Criteria

- Only the flat, top area of the mortar board may be decorated. There may be nothing hanging down from the sides of the cap.
- Decorations must be flat on the surface of the cap. Excessive 3D creations are prohibited. Graduation caps will be reviewed and approved in advance of the ceremony.

It is appropriate to put the following on your cap

- Thank a parent, grandparent, teacher, friend.
- Recognize the university you will be attending.
- Your graduation year.
- The branch of the military you will be joining.

Graduation Caps must NOT

- Contain any advertisement, symbols, abbreviations, initials, words, slogans, patches, or pictures that refer to drugs or controlled substances, tobacco, alcohol, weapons or be of a sexual nature.
- Denote an affiliation with gangs, advocate drug use, violence, illegal activity, or disruptive behavior which is detrimental to the safety and welfare of other students.
- Be obscene, profane, vulgar, or lewd.

- Include numbers other than graduation year.
- Threaten the safety and welfare of any person.
- Include political affiliations.

CONCLUSION

One of the joys working in a high school is to witness the growth of young boys and girls into young men and women. As educators, we share in the fulfillment of your dreams and take great pride in the accomplishments of our graduates. These final weeks bring an array of emotions. In my recent senior class meeting, I addressed these emotions and the passage they are experiencing to adulthood. I also reminded seniors that all the above events are privileges that are earned but can be revoked for poor decisions that might be made. Please reinforce this expectation that foolish behavior at this time could cost them the privilege of a Prom, Senior Day, or even walking the stage for graduation. Our wish for seniors is that these last weeks and events are their springboard to the future. It should be memorable and positive. It should also reflect a level of maturity that is appropriate for those who are truly entering the adult world. On behalf of our entire school community, I want to thank you for entrusting your sons and daughters to us. It has truly been an honor.

Sincerely,

Joseph Lucenti, Principal