



Chalmette High School Graduation Guide



Revised: August 17, 2026

Please read this information carefully. It will provide you with answers to many of your questions concerning graduation.

There are many requirements that must be met in order to receive a high school diploma. Students must pass necessary coursework, credentials, LEAP exams, and meet attendance requirements. In addition, students must clear all debts and serve any detentions or time owed for credits. To ensure seniors meet all requirements for graduation, they must be cleared by a counselor or administrator the last day of their last semester. The procedures for gaining this clearance are listed below. **Only those students cleared for graduation may participate in the Graduation Ceremony.**

SENIOR CHECKOUT

January Graduates

By **Wednesday, January 6**, students must have **passed all necessary course work**. This includes turning in projects, passing exams, etc. Students must also return all Chromebooks, textbooks, calculators, library books and extracurricular uniforms. Debts must be paid for library fines, lost books, athletic or band equipment, etc. **Please understand that everything owed must be cleared, and all course work must be completed by Wednesday, January 6.**

Students will take 1st and 3rd period exams on **Wednesday, December 16** and 2nd and 4th period exams on **Thursday, December 17**. On **January 5**, prospective January Graduates will receive a form to be completed by all of their teachers indicating whether the student has passed or failed. **This form must be returned to a counselor in the cafeteria at 1:00pm on Tuesday, January 5. Seniors should also clear any debts on this day.**

May Graduates

By **Thursday, April 29**, students must have **passed all necessary course work**. This includes turning in projects, passing exams, etc. Students must also return all Chromebooks, textbooks, calculators, library books and extracurricular uniforms. Debts must be paid for library fines, lost books, athletic or band equipment, etc. **Please understand that everything owed must be cleared, and all course work must be completed by Thursday, April 29, including Nunez CC dual enrollment coursework.**

Seniors will take their 2nd and 4th period exams on **Wednesday, April 28**, and 1st and 3rd period exams on **Thursday, April 29**. On Wednesday and Thursday, April 28 and 29, seniors must have their teachers complete a form indicating if the student has passed or failed. **This form must be returned to a counselor in the main gym after their 3rd period exam on Thursday, April 29. Seniors should also clear any debts on this day.**

Virtual Graduates

All virtual coursework must be completed by the last day of exams for each semester, December 17, 2026 for January Graduates and April 29, 2027 for May Graduates. Exams are embedded in the virtual course. If a LEAP exam is needed to graduate, students must come to the campus to take those exams.

STATE TESTS (LEAP 2025) AND STATE REQUIRED COURSES

A student cannot graduate or walk across the stage unless he/she has passed all needed LEAP 2025 tests. Students take LEAP 2025 exams in English I, English II, Algebra I, Geometry, Biology, Civics, and US History. You can access your scores through the Student Progress Center. If you have questions about whether you meet this graduation requirement, please see Ms. Landry.

STATE ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

The Louisiana State Department of Education requires students to be in attendance at school for a specific number of minutes in order to receive credit. Students may not miss more than 7 days each semester to meet the requirement to earn credit. If a student is told that he/she must return to school to satisfy this requirement, the student must return in uniform every school day until the specific amount of time is made up. Failure to do so will result in F*s in all courses and the student not graduating.

GRADUATION SPECIFICS

- **Senior Awards Night** – Monday, April 12 **Invitations given in homeroom on Monday, April 5*
- **Graduation Rehearsals** – Wednesday, May 5
- **Graduate Checkout Day** – Thursday, May 6
- **Graduation Cap and Gown Distribution** – Thursday, May 6
- **Honor Graduate Recognition Ceremony** – Tuesday, May 11 **Invitations given at Graduate Checkout*
- **Grad Walk** – Friday, May 14
- **Graduation Ceremony** – Wednesday, May 19

Students must be available to participate in graduation preparations from May 5 through May 25. Do not plan on taking trips during these three weeks. Keep your school uniform until graduation takes place. You will be required to wear your uniform to rehearsal and checkout day.

GRADUATION REHEARSAL

All prospective graduates who plan to participate in the graduation ceremony must report to the CHS main gym at 7:45 A.M. on Wednesday, May 5, for rehearsal.

YOU MUST BE PRESENT AT THIS REHEARSAL TO PARTICIPATE IN GRADUATION.

All graduates must be in full uniform for rehearsals. Plan to stay until 12:30 P.M. Even if you had early release, you must stay until the end of rehearsal. If you have a job and need a letter to your employer to have you excused during graduation rehearsal, senior checkout, and/or graduation day, tell Mrs. McCormick in the school office by Friday, April 23.

GRADUATE CHECKOUT DAY

All seniors, including January graduates, **MUST** check out on Thursday, May 6 at their designated time slot. Students who are cleared for graduation will receive their caps, gowns, and graduation ceremony admission tickets, verify the spelling of their name, sign up for the Grad Walk, and receive their invite to the Honors Ceremony. Students must wear their school uniform.

Students should meet in the main gym at the following times in uniform:

Last name A - B	8:30 A.M.	Last name N - R	11:00 A.M.
Last name C - D	9:00 A.M.	Last name S - T	11:30 A.M.
Last name E - G	9:30 A.M.	Last name U - Z	12:00 P.M.
Last name H - K	10:00 A.M.	All Rowley students	12:00 P.M.
Last name L - M	10:30 A.M.		

GRAD WALK

Graduating seniors may choose to participate in the Grad Walk where they will walk the halls of the seven St. Bernard Parish public elementary and middle schools in their cap and gowns. **Seniors must sign up to participate on Graduate Checkout Day and meet in the main cafeteria at 8:00am on Friday, May 14. Students must ride the assigned school bus to each school for the event. All buses should return to CHS by 1:00pm.**

GRADUATION CEREMONY

Graduation will be on Wednesday, May 19, at 6:00pm on the CHS Football Field. Students must be on the field in their seat by 4:30pm in the cap and gown. The gates for guests will open at 5:00pm. Students may not wear any cords or medallions during the ceremony not issued by Chalmette High School. Only CHS honor cords and stoles may be worn. Graduation caps may NOT be decorated.

GRADUATING WITH HONORS

All January and May graduates' grade point averages and class rank are determined as of **Friday, April 30**. If you **do** have a grade point average of 3.3 or higher **and** achieve a composite score of 20 or higher on the ACT, you will be notified on Thursday, May 6, at graduate checkout that you are graduating with honors and will receive an invitation to the **Honor Graduate Recognition Ceremony** to be held on **Tuesday, May 11 at 6:00 P.M.** Top 5, Top 5%, and Top 10% graduates will be announced at the ceremony.

GRADUATION ADMISSION TICKETS

Each graduate will receive **8 tickets** to the graduation ceremony. You may purchase as many *graduation announcements* from Balfour as you wish, but you will only receive a total of 8 tickets for admittance to the ceremony. Tickets will be given out at Graduate Checkout on May 6 to those students cleared to participate.

DRESS FOR GRADUATION DAY AND HONORS BANQUET

Young men must wear a collared dress shirt, dress slacks, dress shoes, dress socks, and a tie.

Young ladies must dress in modest dress clothes and dress shoes.

The school officials reserve the right to deny your participation in the ceremony if you are not dressed appropriately. We also reserve the right to withhold the diploma of any individual who behaves inappropriately during any portion of the ceremony and to have him/her removed.

CAP AND GOWN REQUIRED

Graduates must wear the cap and gown selected by the school and purchased through Balfour Co. The senior order date is December 10. You can place your order at CHS on November 11 or December 10 or by calling Balfour at (504) 833-7330 or through their website, **BalfourNO.com**. Caps and gowns from previous years are not permitted. If you have questions about the cap, gown, and diploma cover, ask Mrs. Mae Gregoire (504) 301-2600.

GRADUATE CONDUCT

In order to graduate on stage, seniors must abide by the St. Bernard Parish School Board dress code and behavior regulations through graduation night. If a senior has a major disciplinary problem or does not abide by the dress code, he/she will be denied participation in the graduation ceremony.

INTERNET AND TV VIEWING OF CEREMONY

The graduation ceremony will be shown live via internet streaming. A link is posted on our website and social media platforms. More detailed information will be given to the graduates at rehearsal.

TRANSCRIPTS

Official transcripts are given out at the graduation ceremony. Louisiana public colleges have access to a computer record of graduates' transcripts as long as there is a signed LOSFA form on file. If a college tells you that you need a transcript for some special reason, you must fill out a transcript request form on the senior page under the Academics tab of the school's website, <https://chs.sbpsb.org/>. Nunez Community College transcripts must be requested on their website, Nunez.edu.

SCHOLARSHIP NOTIFICATION

If you have been awarded a scholarship, we would like to recognize you as a scholarship recipient during the ceremony and in the program. You do not have to have accepted the scholarship, only offered the scholarship. Please send a copy of the award letter you receive to Ms. Landry or forward an e-mail notification to hlandry@sbpsb.org. Information must be received **no later than Friday, April 30** in order to print your scholarship information in the graduation program.

COMMUNITY SERVICE DIPLOMA ENDORSEMENT

Students completing a **minimum of 80 documented community service hours** by **April 30** will receive the **Louisiana Community Service Diploma Endorsement**. Graduates will be recognized in the graduation program and will receive a special seal on their diploma. Students should turn in all service hours to Mrs. Watson. A tracking form can be downloaded from the Community Service Endorsement page on our website under the Academics tab or picked up from the counselors office.

MILITARY ACCEPTANCE

If you have signed an acceptance letter with a branch of the military, please turn in a copy of your DD Form 4 to Mrs. Watson. We recognize graduates these graduates at our graduation ceremony.

DUAL ENROLLMENT CEREMONIES AT NUNEZ COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Students who have earned a Certificate of Technical Studies (CTS), Technical Diploma (TD), or Associate Degree through Nunez Community College will be eligible to participate in the Nunez Community College Commencement Ceremony. These students, as well as the students who earned a Career Technical Certificate, will also be invited to the Dual Enrollment Completers Ceremony. Seniors will receive an invite with the time and location at the end of April.

We're glad you came our way! Go Owls!!

OTHER IMPORTANT SENIOR INFORMATION

ACT – ACT scores are used for college admissions and scholarship applications. All seniors are encouraged to take the ACT at least twice before graduation. CHS students take the ACT for free on a state-wide testing day their junior year but can also register at my.act.org to take the ACT on a National Saturday test date. CHS hosts the National ACT on the Saturday test date in September, October, December, February, and April. Students should visit **act.org** for test dates and registration deadlines. Deadlines are usually the month before.

Some students may qualify for two ACT fee waivers if they meet financial eligibility. Students should see their counselor for a fee waiver to take the test for free.

College Applications – Most college applications are due in the fall of students' senior year. Ms. Landry has posted information and links to many in-state applications on the Senior page of our CHS website. Some colleges require transcripts and test scores to be sent, as well as teacher recommendations. Be sure to give your counselor and/or teacher at least a 2-week notice to get these sent in by the deadline.

Common App – The Common App is an online college application platform that allows students to apply to multiple colleges using one application. Many in-state and out-of-state colleges accept the Common App. It does require applicants to include the email of a teacher and counselor for additional information to be submitted. Students will complete the Common App at commonapp.org.

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) – All students attending a college, university, or trade school must complete the FAFSA at fafsa.gov. FAFSA will determine your eligibility for grants, scholarships, and loans. FAFSA is also the application for all TOPS Scholarships.

LOSFA Form – Seniors must have a signed LOSFA form on file. Students cannot qualify for TOPS Scholarships without giving consent to send records to the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Aid. This also gives permission for Louisiana colleges and universities to view your transcript without having to send one after graduation.

NCAA Eligibility Center – Senior athletes who plan to play a sport at an NCAA Division I or II college must register with the NCAA Clearinghouse at <https://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3/>. The registration fee is \$100 unless students qualify for a waiver based on financial income. Once you have completed the registration, see Mrs. Watson so that she can send your transcript.

Project Graduation – Project Graduation is a fun, overnight celebration for seniors held after graduation from 11:00PM-6:00AM. The cost is \$20 and includes food, games, entertainment, and prizes. After January, tickets go up to \$30. Tickets must be purchased in advanced during lunch. Dates to come.

Ring Day – Seniors must have earned 18 credits to participate in Ring Day. Three-year graduates must have earned 16 credits to participate. All debts must be cleared and students may not have two suspensions.

Seniors Portraits – Senior portraits taken through Raymar Photography are used for our yearbook and must be taken by February 26. The session fee is \$20. For appointments, call (504) 277-4569. Saturday make-up sessions will be scheduled in January and February. Dates to come.

Senior Prom – The 2027 Senior Prom will be held on Saturday, March 20 from 8:00-11:00PM at La Bella Vita Reception Hall in Meraux, LA. The cost is \$80 per person and includes reception type food. Dress is formal: Floor length formal dresses and tuxedos. (Clothing must be modest.)

To attend, CHS students must clear debts and not have two or more suspensions. Therefore, students who have been suspended two times this year, including In-School Suspensions (ISS), placed at Rowley Alternative School, or dropped from a St. Bernard Parish School because of disciplinary reasons may NOT attend the Prom. This includes current students and their dates. Non-CHS guests must have official approval form completed from the attended school.

Tickets will be sold in February, only at lunch in the main cafeteria lobby. Space is limited, so tickets will be sold on a first come basis. Prom invitations will be given out to seniors on the Wednesday before prom. **All school debts must be paid by the student before the invitation is issued.**

Chalmette High students are responsible for their behavior and also the actions of their dates. Students are not allowed to return to the prom if they leave the hall.

Senior Trip – CHS senior class sponsors organize a trip to Disney World and Universal Orlando during the week of Mardi Gras. The cost varies, but generally ranges from \$1200-\$1500. This includes bus transportation, tickets, and lodging. Students are responsible for additional food and spending money (suggested: \$500). A payment plan is available for families. See Mr. Dugger if interested.



CHALMETTE HIGH SCHOOL

IMPORTANT SENIOR DATES

2026-27



- ❖ **Senior Success Summit** – August 20
- ❖ **Senior Sunrise** – August 28
- ❖ **ACT @ CHS** – September 19 (Deadline to Register: August 14)
- ❖ **ASVAB Test** – September 22, November 17, January 26, March 23
- ❖ **Homecoming Dance** – October 3
- ❖ **Fall Break** – October 12-13
- ❖ **ACT @ CHS** – October 17 (Deadline to Register: September 12)
- ❖ **Report Card Conference Night** – October 20
- ❖ **Ring Day** – October 23
- ❖ **College & Career Night** – October 28
- ❖ **Balfour at CHS** – November 11
- ❖ **Thanksgiving Holidays** – November 23 - 27
- ❖ **Balfour Deadline for Cap and Gown** – December 10
- ❖ **ACT @ CHS** – December 12 (Deadline to Register: November 6)
- ❖ **Fall Semester Exam Days** – December 16 & 17
- ❖ **Christmas Holidays** – December 21 - January 4
- ❖ **Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday** – January 18
- ❖ **Mardi Gras Holidays** – February 8-12
- ❖ **ACT @ CHS** – February 27 (Deadline to Register: January 22)
- ❖ **Senior Prom** – March 20
- ❖ **Easter Holidays** – March 26 - April 2
- ❖ **Balfour Grad Supplies Delivered (not Cap and Gown)** – April 6
- ❖ **ACT @ CHS** – April 10 (Deadline to Register: March 5)
- ❖ **Senior Awards Ceremony** – April 12
- ❖ **Senior Spring Semester Exam Days** – April 28 & 29
- ❖ **Advanced Placement Exams** – May 3 - 14
- ❖ **Graduation Rehearsal** – May 5
- ❖ **Graduate Check-Out Day** – May 6
- ❖ **Honors Recognition Ceremony** – May 11
- ❖ **Grad Walk** – May 14
- ❖ **Graduation Day** – May 19
- ❖ **Graduation Backup Dates** – May 20 - 25