

FINAL EDITION:

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GOOGLE CLASSROOM: w4xyy7f

FROM YOUR PRINCIPAL, MRS. TOWNSEND

You've made it! Congratulations on making it to the finish line. You all have worked so hard to get to this point, and with graduation around the corner, I know we're all feeling a mix of excitement, nostalgia, and pride. As we get ready for Prom on Friday and the celebrations ahead, here are a few things to keep in mind:

1. iPad collection is on Thursday.
2. Enjoy Prom—have fun and stay safe!
3. Senior Cookout is on Tuesday, May 27 before the Zoo Trip!
4. Make sure you've turned everything in and are cleared for graduation!

We've come a long way together. The memories we've made, through the highs and the lows, are ones we will carry with us for a lifetime. This is the time to thank the people around you—your friends, your teachers, your family, and yourself. I'm truly grateful to have been a part of this amazing class, and I can't wait to stand with you all on graduation day!

YOUR LEADERSHIP TEAM: SENIOR CLASS OFFICERS & SPONSORS

President:	Christian Mendoza
Vice President:	Maddie Walker
Members-At-Large:	Adrianna Dorovenis Luke Harrison Paige Peterson
Class Sponsors:	Mr. Mitchell & Ms. Rihn

From the excitement of prom and senior dinner to the solemnity of awards night and the anticipation of graduation, each milestone has marked your path to this momentous occasion. Your dedication throughout this journey have been remarkable. While we prepare to part ways, please know that I will miss you all dearly. You are not just any class; you are a very special class that I will always remember as the first class I had the pleasure of walking alongside as your high school principal. Your spirit and your accomplishments have left an enduring impression on me. As you celebrate these final days at Shaler Area, cherish the friendships you've made and the experiences that have shaped you. Your future is bright, and I have every confidence that you will continue to make us proud. **Congratulations Class of 2025!**

FROM YOUR SUPERINTENDENT, DR. O'BLACK

As Commencement approaches on May 30, I want to take a moment to celebrate each of you and all that you've accomplished during your time at Shaler Area. This milestone is more than just a ceremony—it is a recognition of your hard work, your growth, and the journey that has shaped you into who you are today.

You've demonstrated resilience, leadership, and a spirit of excellence that will carry you forward into whatever path you choose next. As you prepare to take this next step, know that the Shaler Area community is proud of you and cheering you on. Continue to engage with the world, empower those around you, and strive for excellence in all you do. We look forward to honoring you at graduation and celebrating your many achievements.



PROM: FRIDAY, MAY 23

The Class of 2025 is "*Betting on a Wonderful Night*" on Friday, May 23. If you are attending, here is what you need to know:

- Friday, May 23 is a scheduled half day for the high school with NO early dismissals permitted for prom attendees. Attendees are required to attend all of their classes and remain in school until the 11:45 dismissal—this includes all Beattie and Early Release students. Class attendance will be checked, and if you have not attended all of your classes, you will not be admitted to prom. Please make any prom-related appointments AFTER 11:45 AM in order to attend all of your classes and an assembly.
- The Sheraton's ballroom does not open until 7:30 PM; therefore, please arrive NO earlier than 7:30 PM. If you arrive earlier than 7:30 PM, walk around Station Square until you are permitted to enter the hotel.
- You will need to present your admission ticket and a valid photo ID at the check-in table. Your ticket can be found in the envelope you received when you purchased your ticket.
- If you are driving, we recommend you park in one of the open air lots next to or diagonal from the Sheraton. There is a parking garage across from the Sheraton, but it tends to be more expensive. The Sheraton's lot is expensive as well.
- A photographer will be available from 7:30—9:30 PM to take pictures in front of the formal backdrop chosen and designed by the Prom Committee. A picture package is \$20 (cash only) and includes two 5x7s and four wallets.
- The Prom is a school-sponsored function. You are expected to follow all rules of conduct established by SAHS, SASD, the Sheraton, and the City of Pittsburgh.
- No large purses, bags, or book bags will be permitted at the Prom, and you may not leave the ballroom area to go elsewhere.

PROM 2025	
TIME	EVENTS
7:30 - 8:00 pm	Arrival
8:00 - 9:00 pm	Dinner
9:00 - 11:30 pm	Dancing and entertainment stations
11:30 pm	Departure

IPAD COLLECTION

Seniors will turn in their iPads and all accessories on Thursday, May 22. iPads will need to be charged and must be able to turn on in front of an SASD tech department member. Seniors will then be asked to sign out of Find My iPad and erase all data. Directions to remove your Apple ID are posted to the Class of 2025 Google Classroom. If you are currently having issues with your iPad, please see a member of the tech department prior to May 22 to correct any issues. Below are the replacement costs of lost or damaged items—cash or checks (payable to SASD):

iPad = \$294

Case = \$99

12 watt charging brick = \$19

Lightning cable = \$19

CAPS & GOWNS

Cap & gown distribution will begin on **Thursday, May 22**. In order to receive your cap & gown, you must have turned in your iPad and its accessories plus taken care of any outstanding obligations from the current or previous school years.

YEARBOOK DISTRIBUTION

Seniors who pre-ordered a yearbook will be called to Room 214 on Thursday, May 22 to pick up their book. If the company sent us any overruns of extra books, they will be sold to seniors first for \$90 (cash only).

COUNSELORS' CORNER

If a senior is going onto post-secondary education, their final transcripts will be sent to their post-secondary institution using the information they submitted on their Senior Exit Survey. There is no need to complete a final transcript request.

IMPORTANT DATES

Wednesday, May 21—Senior Finals conclude
 Thursday, May 22—iPad collection
 Friday, May 23—Early Dismissal & Prom
 Tuesday, May 27—Senior Retreat to Pittsburgh Zoo
 Wednesday, May 28—Graduation Practice #1
 Thursday, May 29—Graduation Practice #2
 Friday, May 30—Graduation

**GRADUATION: FRIDAY, MAY 30**

PRACTICE: If you plan to attend Commencement, you MUST attend all scheduled practices. Practices are scheduled for **May 28, 29, 30**. May 30 will only be used if there is a weather cancellation on May 28 or 29. Practices will take place from 9:30 to 11:30 AM at Titan Stadium. Students are to park at Kiwanis and have the option to be shuttled to the stadium or walk. The shuttle buses will run from 9:00 to 9:25 AM. Students are not permitted to park at the stadium itself, the Shaler North Hills Library, or the shopping center where cars have been ticketed and/or towed in the past. Please give yourself enough time to either be shuttled to or walk to the stadium – don't be late. If you do not show up for all scheduled practices, you will not be permitted to participate in the commencement ceremony.

TICKETS & ADMISSION: Admittance to Commencement is by ticket only and tickets will be distributed to the seniors during graduation practice. The admission gates will open at 6 PM - 1 hour before the ceremony - for ticketed guests only. Two (2) ticket gates will be utilized – the southern shopping center gate and the northern scoreboard gate. Tickets will be color-coded depending on which side of the field the senior will be seated, allowing the best view of the graduate. SASD staff will be on hand to help direct guests the night of graduation to the proper side.

DRESS: All graduates should report to the **Middle School Auditorium** between **6:00 and 6:30 PM** dressed and ready to go. Graduation is a formal, dignified ceremony; therefore, dress clothes and dress shoes are appropriate and highly recommended for the nature of this momentous event. This is not an event for jeans, shorts, t-shirts, or casual shoes (flip-flops, old tennis shoes, or boots [work, combat, cowboy, etc.]). Students should take their caps and gowns out of the package prior to graduation to try on and release the wrinkles. Students are NOT to embellish their caps with decorations nor gowns with regalia/cords not earned through SAHS.

PARKING: Traffic and parking will be limited in and around the Mt. Royal building on Commencement evening. Limited handicapped parking will be available at the south end of the stadium and in the Shaler North Hills Library lot. This parking will be by permit only. Written requests for handicapped parking must be made to Mrs. Holland in the Main Office. Parking for all others will be available on Commencement evening in limited amounts at Titan Stadium. There will also be parking at Kiwanis Park. Buses will shuttle guests every 10 minutes to Titan Stadium from this location beginning at 5:45 PM.

PROGRAM: The Commencement program, as a whole, will take approximately 1½ hours. The program will consist of a procession, speeches, and the distribution of diplomas. This is a relatively short period of time considering each name is individually announced and the diploma covers and diplomas are awarded individually. This year's senior class has over 285 graduates.

CEREMONY: Commencement, by tradition, is a dignified ceremony. Commencement is not an occasion for individual students to perform for the entertainment of their parents or guests, nor is it designed for audience participation. It is the occasion for the school to recognize the accomplishments of its senior graduates. We request that all parents/guardians encourage their children NOT to bring entertainment accessories such as beach balls, other blow-up items, and air horns to the ceremony; therefore, we ask the audience to do the same to make sure every child receives the recognition they deserve for their accomplishments.

LIVESTREAM: The ceremony will be live-streamed for family and friends in the area and around the country. A link to the livestream will be posted on the District webpage on the day of the event.

CANCELLATION: If the weather forces Commencement cancellation, this procedure will be followed: Cancellation decisions will be made by 5:30 PM and will be announced on the District website, radio stations, and TV stations KDKA, WTAE, and WPXI between 5:30 and 6:30 PM. Inclement weather dates and times are May 31 (11 AM, 2 PM, 7 PM) and June 1 (2 PM). If we are not able to have Commencement on one of these two dates, it will be canceled and diplomas will be mailed.

DVDs & ROSES: Recordings of Senior Dinner, Prom, and Graduation will be available for the seniors to purchase. The cost is \$20 per event or \$50 for the bundle of three. Families will be notified via email once the DVDs are ready for pick up in mid to late August. Graduates also have the option of carrying a bouquet of roses on the night of Commencement. The roses will then be available for pick up when the graduates arrive to the Middle School Auditorium. The cost is \$15 per bouquet. Orders for all items will be taken in the Activities Office until Thursday, May 22 and payments must be made when the order is placed.

All seniors are encouraged to attend the Commencement ceremony; however, it is not required. The choice should be a family decision. If a senior does not plan to attend, please submit a note indicating the decision to do so no later than Thursday, May 22 to Mrs. Holland in the Main Office. Diplomas can then be picked up the week of June 2.