Heath High School
Class of 2026 Parent Handbook

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Countdown to Graduation Overview

August	● 19th: First Day of School! ● 20th: Senior Sunrise & Parking Spots go on sale. ● In CCR: Create a Common App account. ● At Home: Discuss plans and budgeting for senior year. ○ Purchase cap/gown. (required)
September	● 1st: No School & Senior Parking Lot Painting Day #1 ● 8th: Early Bird Homecoming tickets go on sale ($10) ● 15th: Regular price Homecoming tickets go on sale ($15) ● 17th: Senior Parent College Planning Night ● 19th: No School for Students/ Senior Parking Lot Painting Day #2 ● 22nd: Homecoming ticket cutoff for *outside guests*. ● 24th: Homecoming Bonfire ● 25th: Homecoming Bulldog Rumble ● 26th: Homecoming Game ● 27th: Homecoming Dance (Last minute tickets on sale for $50) ● In CCR: Request letters of recommendation & write essays for college applications. ● At Home: Cap/gown & yearbooks on sale. Submit photos for slideshow & yearbook quote.
October	● 1st: Begin work on FAFSA ● 17th: No School for Students ● 22nd: End of Quarter 1 ● 29th: FAFSA Workshop during Parent Teacher Conferences ● In CCR: Apply for FSA ID, complete the student portion of the FAFSA, and work on college applications. ● At Home: Parents apply for FSA ID and complete the parent portion of the FAFSA. ○ Please ensure your child is completing college applications as appropriate. ○ Cap/gown & yearbooks on sale. Submit photos for slideshow & yearbook quote.
November	● 1st: OSU Priority Deadline ● 6th: Parent Teacher Conferences ● 15th: OU Priority Deadline ● 26-28th: Thanksgiving Break ● Licking County Foundation Scholarship Applications typically open in late Nov. ● In CCR: Writing a cover letter and resume. Interview skills. ● At Home: Please ensure your child is completing college applications as appropriate. ○ Cap/gown & yearbooks on sale. Submit photos for slideshow & yearbook quote.
December	● 8-12th: Mock Professional Interviews for all seniors ● 22nd - 2nd: Christmas Break ● In CCR: Seniors will be interviewed by a professional in their intended field. ● At Home: College acceptances begin to arrive. ○ Cap/gown & yearbooks on sale. Submit photos for slideshow & yearbook quote.

January	● 9th: End of Quarter 2 ● 19th: No School ● Licking County Foundation Scholarship Applications are due in mid/late Jan. ● Financial aid packages begin to arrive from colleges. ● Cap/gown & yearbooks on sale. Submit photos for slideshow and yearbook quote.
February	● 16th: No School ● 25th: Parent Teacher Conferences ● Cedar Point tickets go on sale. ($95) ● Cap/gown & yearbooks on sale. Submit photos for slideshow and yearbook quote. ● Mrs. Clark sends out the Senior Exit Form.
March	● 5th: Parent Teacher Conferences ● 6th: No School for Students ● 13th: End of Quarter 3 ● 30th-3rd: Spring Break ● 31st: Deadline to buy cap/gown ● Cap/gown & yearbooks on sale. Submit photos for slideshow and yearbook quote.
April	● 13th: Deadline to buy Cedar Point tickets and Early Bird Prom tickets on sale ($30) ● 20th: Regular price Prom tickets on sale ($35) ● 27th: Last minute Prom tickets on sale ($50) ● Cap/gowns arriving at HHS. Jardine contacting people who have not yet ordered. Yearbooks on sale. Submit photos for Slideshow and yearbook quote.
May	● 1st: College Decision Day ● 2nd: Prom ● 11th-13th: Senior Exams ● 14th: Cedar Point ● 15th: Field Day and final day to submit photos for Senior Slideshow and senior quote ● 18th: Celebration of Excellence Assembly ● 19th: Senior Breakfast, Distribution of caps/gowns, Senior Clapout ● 20th-21st: No School for Seniors ● 22: Graduation Practice & Graduation Ceremony

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Details about Senior Events

Topics are arranged roughly in chronological order.

Social Media: For updates and information please consider following us on social media!

- Instagram: @heath.hs @heathhsbulldogs @heathhscounseling @hhs_ccr
- Facebook: Heath High School-Official, Heath City Schools
- No social media? No problem! Our Facebook page feeds into our website: www.heath.k12.oh.us

CTec:

We work very hard to be sure our Bulldogs at CTec have all the details about what is happening at their home school. There are two main ways they can stay in the loop:

1. Google Classroom: All students were sent an invitation to the Class of 2026 Google Classroom during their junior year. If they have not yet joined, please have your student do that immediately. They will need to sign in to their Heath account and use the code: **d5fcsnt**
2. Email: Typically I email information the same day I post it in Google Classroom. For CTec students I email it to their CTec account **and** their Heath account. Remember, morning announcements are emailed to all students daily on their Heath accounts. Checking email frequently is a standard expectation in professional settings. Students should begin the habit of frequently checking email now.

In addition to these two main communication methods, Mrs. Clark also visits CTec at least once per semester to meet with students. Due to a variety of school and work schedules for students, she can not ensure that every student will be on CTec's campus during her visit.

Senior Sunrise:

On the second day of school, August 20th, all senior students (including CTec) will spend the first two hours of the school day together taking care of "senior stuff." For example…

- **Sunrise:** Gather to enjoy the sunrise together with photo props.
- **Breakfast:** Seniors will enjoy a special breakfast together.
- **Class Meeting:** An overview of the student handbook as well as establishing positive expectations for the year will be discussed.
- **Senior pictures:** Individual pictures will be taken. These are the photos that will be featured in the yearbook. Students should be dressed for the occasion.
- **Class picture & 13 Year picture:** While we have everyone together and looking their best, we will take the professional senior group photo. There will also be a photo for the students who have been Bulldogs since kindergarten.
- **Confirm Diploma Name:** Please discuss with your student how your family would like the name to appear on their diploma.
- **Sign Senior Banner:** We want to see every member of the Class of 2026 graduate this year. Students will sign a commemorative banner to indicate their commitment to graduate. This banner will be proudly displayed in the school all year.
- **Sign Senior t-shirt:** Every senior receives a customized HHS senior tshirt at minimal to no cost. The shirt is signed by every member of the senior class.

Senior Parking Spots:

Once again, seniors will have the opportunity to paint a personalized parking spot to use during their senior year.

- A design sketch must be submitted for approval prior to selecting a specific parking spot. All spots are first come, first served. Each parking spot is $15 and can be paid in cash or check

(Heath High School) to Miss Jardine.
- There are two available days for students to paint: Monday, Sept 1 and Friday, Sept 19.
- Please bring your own paint, brushes, rollers, painter's tape, and paint trays. Also, please remember sunscreen, water, and snacks. Exterior latex paint should be used. Absolutely no spray paint!
- Students are strongly encouraged to coordinate the purchase of supplies (and snacks!) with friends in order to reduce the cost to each family.
- Parents often come to help their students paint. This has become a really fun day for families and friends to spend time together and make their mark for the year.
- Students do **not** have to drive a car to school in order to paint a parking spot. Visitor spots are reserved for those students who don't drive but want to personalize a spot.

Senior Parent College Planning Night:

If your child is considering attending college after graduation, please mark your calendars for Wednesday, September 17th from 6-7pm. Mrs. Clark, Mrs. Allen, and Miss Jardine will be holding the Senior Parent College Planning Night which will give you additional details about the timeline for college applications and financial aid, as well as graduation seals and credits, etc. Most importantly, this evening is a great opportunity to ask questions and reassure yourself that your child is on track.

School Fees:

As a reminder, all school fees must be paid for your senior in order to have late arrival or early dismissal, buy a prom ticket, buy a ticket to Cedar Point, and to receive their final transcript at graduation. Fees can be paid online or by sending cash/check to the HHS office. Please call Mrs. Endress in the office if you would like to set up a payment plan. If you feel that your family may qualify for assistance with school fees, please contact Karen Guse at kguse@g.heath.k12.oh.us or (740) 238-7108.

College Visits and Job Shadowing:

Students are encouraged to visit multiple colleges as they decide where to apply and where to attend. There is much to be learned from meeting with professors and current students and touring the campus. Many universities even allow prospective students to sit in on a class in their intended major. Students are allowed up to 5 absences due to college visits. Be sure to get the permission slip from Miss Jardine or Mrs. Clark and have it signed by admissions at the university in order for your absence to be excused. This opportunity is also available for students wishing to shadow a prospective employer!

Professional Pictures:

While the school pictures taken during Senior Sunrise will be used for the yearbook, some families also like getting their own professional pictures taken. These pictures are often used for graduation announcements and party invitations.

Yearbook:

Yearbooks are available for purchase from Walsworth for $60. The best price will be early in the year. Click Here to Purchase a Yearbook

Yearbook Quote:

Every senior will be featured in the yearbook with their school photo, their plans after high school, and a quote of their choosing. A Google Form will be posted in the Senior Google Classroom to submit their quote. Remember that all quotes must be school appropriate. If the quote is not school

appropriate, it will be denied and the student will need to choose another quote. The deadline to submit a quote is Friday, May 8th.

Senior Slideshow:

One of our fantastic HHS Action Teams creates a senior slideshow to be shown during graduation practice. Each senior will have their own slide and we need photos to put on the slide. We'll take baby pictures, school pictures, candid shots, senior pictures- anything that you feel represents your child well. Please send all pictures to Carrie Van der Veer at cvanderveer@heath.k12.oh.us. Please include your child's name in the subject line. The deadline for pictures is Friday, May 8th.

Caps and Gowns:

Caps, gowns, and tassels are to be purchased from Jostens. This combination costs approximately $34. It is very important that your child's cap and gown is purchased only from Jostens so that the style and color is consistent. Click Here to Order Your Cap, Gown & Tassel

- If you have a friend or family member who graduated from HHS in 2022-2025 and is relatively the same size as your child, you are welcome to use their cap/gown. You will only need to purchase a '26 tassel for $14.
- Typically, boys wear brown gowns and girls wear white gowns.
- No, graduation caps may **not** be decorated prior to graduation. Your child will not walk with a decorated cap. However, after graduation, the cap is yours and your child can decorate it to their heart's content!
- Caps, gowns, and tassels will be delivered to Miss Jardine at the high school and will be given to graduates the week of graduation in order to ensure that they stay clean and don't get lost before graduation. Please note that if you wish for your graduate to have professional pictures in their cap and gown prior to graduation, your photographer will need to purchase a cap/gown online. Many local photographers have caps/gowns available for their clients.
- Jostens also offers packages with all kinds of extras- announcements, thank you notes, tshirts, sweats, rings, and specialty souvenir tassels. You name it, they sell it! The extras are delivered directly to your home. These packages can become very expensive, so please do not feel any pressure to purchase the extras. The only required purchase is the $34 cap/gown/tassel.
- **Please have your cap/gown/tassel purchased by March 31st** as they will begin to be delivered to HHS in April. Miss Jardine checks each individually to be sure every graduate has their cap/gown/tassel. Starting in April, Miss J will be reaching out to individual families if a cap/gown has not been purchased.

Homecoming:

- The best way to purchase tickets will be online via Hometown Tickets, but cash sales will also be available in the guidance office by request. Heath students (including Heath CTec students) are able to purchase their ticket entirely online with no additional paperwork. Each HHS student is permitted to bring an outside guest if they wish, so long as the guest is no older than a '25 high school graduate. Outside guest forms will be available in the front office, the guidance office, and Miss Jardine's room.
    - Early Bird Homecoming tickets will be available for $10 starting September 8th.
    - Regular price tickets will be available for $15 starting September 15th.
    - Outside guest forms will not be accepted after 3pm on Monday, September 22nd.
    - Last minute tickets will be available for $50 the day of the dance.
- Homecoming Week will be September 22-26. Typically there is a spirit theme for each day.
- The Community Bonfire is Wednesday night at 7pm.
- The Bulldog Rumble takes place during the school day on Thursday. Seniors are hoping to "flush" the juniors, sophomores, freshmen, and staff for custody of the coveted Bulldog Plunger.

- The football game against Johnstown will be Friday night at 7pm. The presentation of Homecoming Court and the crowining of King and Queen will be at 6:30.
- The Homecoming Dance will be from 8-10pm at HHS.

Applying for College:

- During CCR class, students will have time to work on their college applications. The Common Application is a fantastic tool where a student fills out the application once and is able to apply to multiple colleges. We very highly recommend students utilize Common App instead of creating a separate application for each university. Students will have time in CCR to request letters of recommendation from teachers, write college essays, and complete their applications.
- Xello is the platform that students will use to request transcripts from Mrs. Clark. Mrs. Clark sends transcripts every Monday from 8-10am. Students should request transcripts on Xello at least one week before the deadline. Most colleges charge an application fee between $25-$80, so be sure to talk with your child to ensure that they are serious about the schools to which they are applying. Some schools offer application fee waivers, however, especially for students who may have financial need. It never hurts to contact the admissions office and ask if a fee waiver is available.
- Many schools offer a priority admission deadline (sometimes called “early action”), which is typically in November. Beware of “early decision” deadlines, which means that, if accepted, your child commits to attending that school, regardless of how much (or little!) financial aid the school offers. If your school offers a “rolling admission,” it means that applications can be submitted at any time till their final deadline.
- Every school is different, but typically schools begin to send out acceptance letters in December and financial aid packages in early spring. Students do not have to commit to a particular university until May 1st. Typically, housing and student orientations begin after May 1st.

FAFSA:

If your child is planning to attend college or technical school, we highly recommend you fill out the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). Link to FAFSA

- First, both you and your child will need to create a FSA ID which verifies your identity. Once submitted, verificantion can take 1-3 days.
- Once your FSA ID has been verified, your child will be able to begin the student portion of the FAFSA. When the student portion is finished, you will get a notification to go in and complete the parent portion.
- There are an extraordinary number of “what if” scenarios regarding family structures and financial situations. Don’t worry. The FAFSA has seen it all.
- We also hold a free FAFSA Workshop during the first session of Parent Teacher Conferences. As long as you have already had your FSA ID verified, you can bring a computer or your child’s Chromebook to the school and we’ll have Financial Aid representatives here to help.

Scholarships:

Paying for college can be a daunting prospect. Aid comes from three main sources. First, there is the aid that the government offers (based on the FAFSA.) Second is the aid that individual schools offer. This is the largest source of aid and is also based on the FAFSA. The third source of aid is scholarships. National scholarships are available, but are often difficult to win because applicants come from all over the country. Local scholarships, on the other hand, are extremely attainable for many of our students. The largest source of local scholarships is through the Licking County Foundation. (Link to Licking County Foundation Scholarship Program) The application typically opens in late November and is due in mid/late January. The deadline will be the close of business (5pm) and is strictly enforced. After filling out the application, your student will receive a list of scholarships to

which they can choose to apply. Some of those scholarships will require additional essays, so it is imperative that students complete the application well in advance of the deadline. Each year we see students scrambling to write essays before 5pm the day of the deadline, or, worse, foregoing the opportunity to apply for those scholarships. Students will have classtime during CCR in December to work on their LCF applications. In addition to LCF, consider asking your employer or place of worship if scholarships are available. Mrs. Clark will also send her legendary Counselor Communication emails every Friday that often contain additional scholarship opportunities. Please be sure to check those out each week. It is shocking each year how many scholarships left unclaimed simply because there were no applicants. The goal is to minimize the amount of money that your family needs to contribute and/or take out in student loans. The money is there; we want to help your child get it!

Mock Interviews:

As part of CCR, every senior will have the opportunity to be interviewed by a professional in their intended field. They will write a cover letter and update the resume they created during their junior year. The interviewers will come to the school the week of December 8-12 and meet with students during the school day. Students are expected to dress professionally. We have had many students leverage this opportunity to turn a “mock” interview into jobs, internships, shadowing opportunities, and critical networking connections. Interviewers give students feedback on their first impressions, professionalism, and preparedness.

Senior Tag:

You may hear talk of “senior tag” – a game that involves teams of kids trying to “tag” each other and eliminate them from competition with water guns. Playing senior tag has become a tradition that seniors participate in across the state and country. Unfortunately, tragedies can result from these games. Heath High School and our staff do not have any connection with this game nor do we endorse it. The school does not organize senior tag and we are not involved in running it in any way.

Senior T-Shirts:

We will be creating a custom tshirt for the HHS Class of 2026. All seniors will sign the back of the tshirt during the Senior Sunrise and will later vote on the front design and the color of the shirt. Due to wise budgeting of class funds, it looks like we are on track to offer shirts free of cost to each senior once again this year.

Prom:

Prom will be on Saturday, May 2nd from 8-10pm. The presentation of Prom Court and the crowning of King/Queen will be at 7:30.

- Early Bird Prom tickets will be available for $30 starting April 13th.
- Regular Price tickets will be available for $35 starting April 20th.
- Last Minute tickets will be available for $50 starting April 27th.
- The best way to purchase tickets will be online via Hometown Tickets, but cash sales will also be available in the guidance office by request. Each HHS student is permitted to bring an outside guest if they wish, so long as the guest is no older than a ‘25 high school graduate and no younger than a sophomore. Tickets will be available until 3pm on Friday, May 1.
- As a reminder, all school fees must be paid in order to purchase a Prom ticket.

Cedar Point:

The Class of 2026 senior trip to Cedar Point will be Thursday, May 14. The cost of the trip is typically $95 and includes a light breakfast, snacks, a charter bus, a park ticket, and an all-day drink voucher. Tickets will go on sale in February. The last day to purchase a ticket will be Monday, April 13.

- If your child has a season pass, the price of the trip will be adjusted since a ticket will not be

needed.
- For this trip to count as a field trip, your child must ride the charter bus to and from Cedar Point. The school can not be responsible for your child's safety if they are not on the bus.

Graduation Week:

And then, just like that, it'll be time for graduation!

- **MONDAY**: **Celebration of Excellence Assembly**
  - The academic excellence of our seniors will be celebrated on Monday, May 18th. Mrs. Clark will reach out to you in late April/early May to let you know if your child will be recognized on stage so that you can make arrangements to attend if possible. Excellence in individual content areas as well as honors diplomas and many, many scholarships will be recognized
- **TUESDAY**: **Senior Breakfast & Clap-Out**
  - We will begin with a free breakfast for all seniors at 8am. Seniors typically wear either their senior tshirt *or* a tshirt representing their plans after graduation. The Senior Slideshow will be featured during this breakfast. You don't want to miss it!
  - Caps and gowns will be distributed after breakfast.
  - Senior Clap Out is a special moment for our seniors to inspire younger students and for teachers to celebrate their former students. Our seniors will board school buses and visit Garfield, Stevenson, HMS, and finally, HHS. For the security of our school buildings, parents and guests are not permitted to attend. Seniors are welcome to leave for the day after Clap-Out.
- **WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY**: **No School for Seniors**
- **FRIDAY**: **Graduation Practice and Graduation**
  - *Graduation practice is **mandatory** for all students (including CTec students) who plan to walk at graduation.* Practice will be at 8am on Friday, May 16th.
  - We will practice our lineup, processional, seating chart, and recessional.
  - After practice, students are free to go home and prepare for graduation.
  - Students will meet back at school at 6pm.
  - Graduation will be at 7pm at Swank Field. Should the forecast be unfavorable, the decision will be made to move graduation into the HHS Main gym.
  - You do not need to purchase tickets for graduation and there is no limit to the number of tickets each graduate can use. Should any of your guests require handicapped seating, your child will request that seating in April.
  - For graduation, if your child is wearing a white gown, pale colors should be worn underneath.
  - You are not limited in the number of people who attend graduation and you do not need tickets for your guests.
  - Graduation typically takes about an hour and a half.