

# Graduation FAQ's - Class of 2025

- 1. When is graduation (also called commencement)?** Graduation is Friday, June 6th at 6 pm in the new gym. Students park in the student lot and be in the old gym at 4:30 pm and enter through the front auditorium lobby entrance for proper attire check. Doors open at 5 for guests at the new gym lobby entrance.
- 2. How many tickets will I get for the ceremony and when will I get them?** Students will get 8 tickets on June 4 at practice. Each person attending the ceremony needs a ticket (children, people in wheelchairs, babies on laps). Students who need extra tickets should talk to classmates who do not need all of their tickets. Handicap seating is available but not reserved. Livestream: create a free account <https://www.nfhsnetwork.com/events/hamburg-area-high-school-hamburg-pa/evt4f83c64866>
- 3. What about my cap and gown and stole?** Students ordered the cap/gown/tassel on the first day of school at the class meeting. If they were not there, Mrs. McCarthy got the height from the school nurse and ordered it. The school district pays half and the student pays the other half. Because of solid class fundraising over the years, the class treasury is paying for ½ of the student cost, \$10 needs to be paid to Mrs. McCarthy by May 9 (cash or check to HAHS). Students will receive their cap/gown/tassel at school on June 4 at practice and keep it after the ceremony. Students need to check their cap/gown, and if something is wrong, immediately let the school know so we can fix the problem. Honor grads (those with a final weighted GPA of 94% or higher) wear gold stoles, which are property of the school and must be returned after the ceremony in the old gym at the diploma pick up location.
- 4. What do I wear for commencement?** No jeans, flip flops, sneakers, or boots. Do not decorate the cap. Boys: dress pants, dress shoes, collared shirt, tie. Girls: pants suit, dress, skirt, or dress pants and blouse, dress shoes or sandals.
- 5. Do I have to attend graduation practice?** Students must attend all practices or they will not be permitted to participate in the ceremony. Practices will be held after homeroom of each school day on June 3 and 4.
- 6. When will I get my diploma?** Students receive an empty diploma folder on the stage during the ceremony and will pick up the actual diploma in the old gym immediately after the ceremony. Family members are not allowed in the gym and can meet up with grads outside the school after the ceremony. All financial obligations (look in Sapphire) must be settled before receiving the diploma.
- 7. What is Baccalaureate and do I have to attend?** Baccalaureate is June 5 at 7 pm at St. John's Lutheran Church in Hamburg. It is a service of dedication and remembrance, entirely organized and presented through the Hamburg Ministerium and class officers. It is not an official school event, and participation is voluntary. Students who attend baccalaureate are asked to wear their gowns and arrive at 6:30 for line up.
- 8. Where do I put my stuff during the ceremony?** Mrs. McCarthy has a secure, locked closet in the old gym where she can lock up car keys, purses, etc, during the ceremony.
- 9. When is the Senior Sunset?** The students met in September for a sunrise and will finish the year with a sunset, food/drink, and yard games on May 21st from 7:00 - 8:30 pm (rain date May 22nd) \$5 deposit and RSVP by May 14th. We will return the \$5 when the students show up at the event.
- 10. When is the Graduation Walk?** Two years ago, another tradition was started, a graduation walk/parade through the halls of the middle school and Tilden and Perry elementary schools. This year, it will be after practice on June 4th. Students will wear their caps/gowns and board a bus to go to the schools for this celebration. Students who do not want to attend, must provide a note to opt out of this activity by May 16th.

## Important Dates and Times

**May 21:** SENIOR SUNSET 7:00 - 8:30 pm

**May 30:** SENIOR TRIP Wildwood, NJ

**June 3:** PRACTICE after homeroom - approximately noon: practice begins in the cafeteria immediately after homeroom with class meeting, senior breakfast, and then practice starting in the gym

**June 4:** PRACTICE after homeroom – approximately 9:30 am, after homeroom, report to the old gym for practice GRADUATION WALK at middle school and Tilden and Perry Elementary schools, 9:30 am

**June 5:** Senior students do not need to attend school as their attendance at graduation on June 6 will be recorded for this day. BACCALAUREATE 7 pm, St. John Lutheran Church, report at 6:30 pm

**June 6:** GRADUATION CEREMONY 4:30 pm: arrive in old gym, students do not need to come to school at normal school time on graduation day