



BROOKLINE HIGH SCHOOL
115 GREENOUGH STREET
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April 26, 2010

Dear Seniors, Parents and Guardians:

We are three quarters of the way through the senior year. Speaking for the entire faculty of Brookline High School, we have been delighted to witness the growth and accomplishments of the Class of 2010 over the past four years. We have seen high levels of commitment in many areas: academic, athletic, artistic and civic.

In order to help you plan for the end of the year, we have prepared a calendar of events, below. We also address important issues which relate to a successful end of the year, such as “hold slips,” “senior skip day,” “senior pranks,” and special rules pertaining to the last week of school, including the prom and after-the-prom party. It’s a long list, but very important. Please read it carefully and take time to discuss it with your son/ daughter. **We write to be clear and to avoid any incidents which disrupt a celebratory and dignified ending to the year.**

- April 27: Senior assembly: T-Block, in the MLK room, to review the end of the year calendar, discuss graduation planning, recruit student speakers and musicians for graduation, and discuss the After the Prom Party.
- Hold Slips: We have reminded all seniors, via homeroom and letters home, of any outstanding obligations from prior years. Please resolve these with the issuing teacher/department ASAP. **Students will not receive their graduation gown or tickets on June 3rd, and will not participate in graduation until all hold-slips are resolved.** Cash payments only.
- April 27 - 7:30 PM: Special Awards Program in the Roberts and Dubbs Auditorium, for academic excellence and citizenship. Award recipients and their families will receive individual invitations.
- May 4: Last Senior PTO Meeting: “Saying Goodbye: Parent to Parent Conversation,” in MLK room, 7:00 PM.
- May 1 - May 21: Prom tickets on sale in Room 285. This year the prom will be held at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel from 7:00-11:30 PM on Tuesday, June 1, 2010. The tickets are \$105.00 (cash only), and can be purchased during the school day. The price of the ticket includes admission to the After-The-Prom Party, held at the BHS Tappan Street Gym from

midnight until 5:00 AM. Students who buy their tickets by May 18th will be eligible to participate in the raffle for prom favors at the senior assembly on May 20th.

- June 1-2: After the Prom Party – The ATPP is sponsored by the PTO and BHS parents who volunteer endless hours to create a safe venue for seniors on this memorable evening. Admission to the ATPP is included in the cost of the prom ticket. Seniors who attend the ATPP must remain until 3:30 AM. Any senior may purchase just the After-The-Prom Party ticket for the price of \$20.00.
- Prom Transportation: This year we are chartering Luxury Coach buses to transport students to and from the prom. These are the same buses we used for the Junior Semi. We **STRONGLY** urge students to ride the buses to avoid the excessive expense of private limousines, to be more environmentally responsible, and to insure safety throughout the evening (and thus participation in graduation, more details on this below). The buses will cost \$20.00 per person. Tickets for the bus must be confirmed by May 21st.
- Private Prom Transportation: **Students who choose to hire private transportation must use limousines, not “party buses.”** Our experience, confirmed by students, is that party buses hold more students and are more likely to lead students to use alcohol or other illegal substances. We are defining limousines as vehicles which hold 12 or fewer riders; “party buses” hold more than 12 and are not allowed.
- **To further discourage substance abuse, we will use breathalyzers for students we suspect of being under the influence of drugs or alcohol. We will call the parents of a student we believe to be “using”; the student will be sent home, and s/he will not be permitted to attend the ATPP, class day, and graduation.**
- May 3 - May 14: Advanced Placement exams will be given in the various disciplines for students who have opted to take them.
- May 20: **Mandatory** Senior Assembly - X-Block – in the auditorium to announce results of final planning for the prom, after-the-prom party, senior day, and graduation; and to encourage responsible behavior throughout these activities. A raffle for prom items--such as free hair appointments, free tux rentals, free corsages, and more—will occur during this assembly.
- **SPECIAL NOTE: There is no such thing as senior skip day or a class trip.** Students who miss a day of school for these reasons will receive AWOLS. Students who N-out of a class due to excessive AWOLs put their graduation at risk.
- **SPECIAL NOTE: We do not condone senior pranks.** Over the past few years, senior pranks have turned malicious and destructive despite our best efforts to work on them with the students, and can no longer be sanctioned. Students who damage property or behave in a disrespectful manner will be subject to BHS school rules, including paying for damages, either individually or through class funds, and **being excluded from graduation.**

Alternatively, we encourage students to organize a senior spirit event in consultation with Dean Lande and Dean Meyer.

- May 25, 26, and 27: Final examinations for seniors will be given in regular classes.
5/25: A, G, E blocks 5/26: C, D blocks 5/27: B, F blocks
- May 24-28: Barring any printing delays, the prepaid yearbooks will be distributed at this time. Students who have not yet ordered yearbooks may do so throughout the month of April for \$100.00. After May 1st, if yearbooks are available, they will sell for \$110.00 (cash only). Yearbooks may be purchased at Jostensyearbooks.com
- May 20: The Annual Varsity Athletic Awards Banquet will be held at 6:30 PM at Boston University. Many seniors will be recognized at this event.
- May 28: Seniors who have completed ALL of their academic requirements will be released from school. Seniors who are enrolled in sophomore or junior electives must be in good standing to be released at this time. Seniors should check with their teachers to confirm that they have completed all requirements in non-senior courses.
- This is an excellent time to clean out your locker. Items left after June 6th will be discarded or donated to charity.
- June 1: Brookline High School senior prom at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel. More information is included in the sample contract, attached.
- June 1-2: After the Prom Party - **Students are required to attend the ATPP until at least 3:30 AM.** Students may bring a change of clothes to the high school before the prom for the ATPP, and store them securely during the prom and during the ATPP. Students are not allowed to bring bags upstairs into the ATPP. The ATPP is sponsored by BHS parents to insure a safe evening on this most dangerous night of the year for high school seniors. The parents who organize this event work innumerable hours to make it an enjoyable time for everyone. We hope we have your support to insure that this important community endeavor continues for years to come.
- June 3: Distribution of caps and gowns. Starting at 9:00 AM, we will begin issuing “clear slips” in the Dean’s office, the SWS office, at Winthrop House, and in OFC to students who have no outstanding hold slips or other obligations. Each student will report to the appropriate administrative office, pick up a “CLEAR” card, and proceed to the Schluntz Gymnasium with \$25 cash for the gown. (Caps and gowns from previous graduations may not be used). Students will also receive four outdoor graduation tickets, three indoor graduation tickets, their final report card, a guidance survey, an exit survey, and a class favor.
- June 3: Annual Senior Class Day - 11:30 AM to 2:00 PM - Cypress Field. This will be an opportunity for seniors to share time with each other and the BHS staff as they sign yearbooks, eat and have fun. Entertainment will be provided by their classmates.

- June 3: Graduation rehearsal on Cypress Field at 2:30 PM. Following class day, graduating seniors will line up in the cafeteria and outside the clinic at 2:30 as we begin the graduation rehearsal. If it rains on June 3rd, all outdoor activities will take place in the Schluntz Gym.
- June 6: The Brookline High School Scholarship Breakfast will take place at 9:00 AM in the Viola Pinanski Quadrangle. If we experience inclement weather, the breakfast will take place in the cafeteria.

**BROOKLINE HIGH SCHOOL
GRADUATION WILL BE ON CYPRESS FIELD
AT 1:00 PM ON SUNDAY, JUNE 6, 2010**

If a senior or any member of his/her family requires handicapped seating, please contact Hal Mason, Assistant Headmaster, at 617 713 5011 by May 26th.

All seniors must report for the pre-processional line-up at 12:15 PM on June 6th.

We have hired a professional photographer to take a picture of each graduate as he/she receives his/her diploma. A proof of this picture will be sent to your home, and you may purchase this picture if you wish. Brookline Access Cable TV will be filming this event in its entirety for those who want to view it later at home. For these reasons, we ask that family and friends refrain from coming forward during the graduation to take pictures.

As you can see, these are very busy times and it is our sincere hope that we have clear skies and a meaningful ceremony. If the weather does not cooperate, each student will have three indoor tickets for the immediate family in the Schluntz Gym. Other guests will be able to view the graduation in the Roberts and Dubbs Auditorium. Much work has gone into this culminating activity, which we hope will be enjoyable and memorable for all our students and their families.

We all look forward to these exciting senior events, and of course, we expect responsible behavior throughout from all of our students. In the interest of clarity, it is necessary that everyone understand that we will enforce the following:

1. We do not award blank diplomas. No senior will receive a diploma until s/he has:
 - a) completed all graduation requirements and b) cleared all hold slips.
2. To participate in the ceremony, each student must purchase a cap and gown. Caps and gowns from previous graduations may not be used.
3. Each student will be required to sign a prom contract at the time of ticket purchase (copy attached). The contract, in part, says, "The prom is considered a school event. All school rules of conduct apply. Any student found to be in possession of, or under the influence of, drugs or alcohol will be asked to leave the prom accompanied by a parent/guardian, will be immediately suspended from school, will not be allowed to attend the After-the-Prom Party, and will be suspended from future school related activities including graduation ceremonies."

4. Please read the contract carefully and sign it with your son or daughter. If you expect your son or daughter to attend the After the Prom Party, please be sure to indicate that. If you want to be called if your son or daughter does not arrive at the After the Prom Party, please indicate that as well.
5. Absolutely no tickets will be sold at the door for either the Prom or the After-The-Prom Party.
6. Any senior who commits a suspendable offense as defined by the Student Handbook (including an action committed as part of a senior prank) during the final week of school will not be allowed to participate in any other school activities, including athletic events, the Prom, After-The-Prom Party, Class Day, award ceremonies and the graduation ceremony itself.

It is our hope that all parents will continue to participate with us as we plan a safe and rewarding celebration for all of our seniors. Again, congratulations to you all and thank you for your on-going support.

Dean of the Class of 2010

Associate Dean of the Class of 2010

Attachment/Contract