

Class of 2025



Wayne Prep Academy High School

Graduation

Handbook

SAVE THE DATES - CLASS OF 2025

<i>DATE</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>
<i>August 16, 2024</i>	<i>9:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Senior Breakfast</i>	<i>WPAHS Commons</i>
<i>September 12, 2024</i>	<i>Appt. Only</i>	<i>Drape/Tux Pictures</i>	<i>WPAHS Gym</i>
<i>September 13, 2024</i>	<i>9:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Senior Event</i>	<i>WPAHS Commons</i>
<i>October 7, 2024</i>	<i>10:45 - 11:10 a.m.</i>	<i>Herff Jones Visit</i>	<i>WPAHS Gym</i>
<i>October 11, 2024</i>	<i>9:20 a.m.</i>	<i>Senior Event</i>	<i>WPAHS Commons</i>
<i>October 24, 2024</i>	<i>Appt. Only</i>	<i>Drape/Tux Make-ups</i>	<i>WPAHS Gym</i>
<i>October 24, 2024</i>	<i>Lunch</i>	<i>Herff Jones Ordering</i>	<i>WPAHS Commons</i>
<i>October 31, 2024</i>	<i>Lunch</i>	<i>Herff Jones Make-up Ordering</i>	<i>WPAHS Commons</i>
<i>November 8, 2024</i>	<i>9:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Senior Event</i>	<i>WPAHS Commons</i>
<i>November 13, 2024</i>	<i>9:30 am - 12:00 pm</i>	<i>Herff Jones Make-up Ordering</i>	<i>WPAHS Commons</i>
<i>November 14, 2024</i>	<i>Seniors: 9:45 a.m. Parents: 6:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Senior Meeting (Mandatory)</i>	<i>WPAHS Gym</i>
<i>December 13, 2024</i>	<i>9:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Senior Event</i>	<i>WPAHS Commons</i>
<i>December 13, 2024</i>	<i>3:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Deadline for Paying \$25 Senior Fee for December Graduates</i>	<i>WPAHS Front Office or Weber</i>
<i>January 10, 2025</i>	<i>9:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Senior Event</i>	<i>WPAHS Commons</i>
<i>February 10, 2025</i>	<i>9:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Senior Event</i>	<i>WPAHS Commons</i>
<i>March 11, 2025</i>	<i>9:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Senior Event</i>	<i>WPAHS Commons</i>
<i>March 28, 2025</i>	<i>3:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Deadline for Paying Senior Fee (\$25)</i>	<i>WPAHS Front Office or Weber</i>
<i>April 4, 2025</i>	<i>10:15 - 11:45 a.m.</i>	<i>Cap & Gown Delivery Senior Event</i>	<i>WPAHS Common Outside</i>

<i>April 9, 2025</i>	Individual- By Appt. Group - 12:30 p.m. (flyers will go out late March)	Cap & Gown Pictures Individual (optional); Group (mandatory)	WPAHS Gym
<i>April 9, 2025</i>	1:00 pm	Senior Picnic	WPAHS (Outdoors) Rain Date TBD
<i>May 10, 2025</i>	TBD	Junior/Senior Prom Tickets: \$40/\$50	The Barn @ Goldsboro Bridge Battlefield, Old Mt. Olive Hwy Goldsboro
<i>May 6, 2025</i>	6:00 pm	Senior Academic Awards	WPAHS Gym
<i>May 9 , 2025</i>	1:10 pm lineup at high school. We will walk to elem first, then middle, then high school	Senior Class Walk (cap and gown through lower schools)	WPAES; WPAMS; WPAHS
<i>May 29, 2025</i>	8:30 a.m.	Mandatory Graduation Practice	Wayne Community College - Moffatt Auditorium
<i>May 30, 2025</i>	Report Time - 5:00 p.m. Ceremony - 6:00 p.m.	Graduation Ceremony	Wayne Community College - Moffatt Auditorium



Estimated Price Sheet for 2025

NOTE: All dates and prices are estimates and are subject to change

	EVENT	DATE	PRICE			
	Instructional Fee (required)	Open House	\$25			
	Cap and Gown Ensemble (required)	Oct.- Mar.	\$80/\$120			
	Mid-year Grads Senior Fee (required)	Dec. 13th 3:00 p.m.	\$25			
	Senior Shirts (optional)	December/ January	\$25			
	Yearbook Ads (optional)	Late Winter/Early Spring	¼ Page - \$30 ½ Page - \$50 Full Page - \$100			
	Yearbook (optional)	Late Winter/Early Spring	\$55			
	Senior Fee (required)	Mar. 28th 3:00 p.m.	\$25			
	Cap/Gown Photos (optional)	April	\$40			
	Prom (optional)	May 10	\$40/\$50			
	Senior Trip	TBD	TBD			

Cap and Gown Ordering and Delivery – October 2024

Seniors who still have not ordered their cap and gown may pick up an order form from Mrs. Morales in the front office, or call the **Herf Jones office directly @ 919-581-0355**. Seniors may not participate in the graduation ceremony without the current WPAHS cap and gown graduation ensemble.

- ALL Seniors who participate in the graduation ceremony must have the current year cap and gown purchased from Herff Jones.
- The cost of the cap and gown will increase from \$80 to \$120 on February 1, 2025. The sooner you order and pay, the cheaper the cost!
- Delivery date for pre-ordered and paid cap and gown and graduation supplies will be Friday, April 4, 2025 at the high school. If there is a balance on your account, your supplies will be held until the account is reconciled.

Cap and Gown Pictures – April 9, 2025

Strawbridge Studios will be here on Wednesday, April 9, 2025 to take graduation cap and gown pictures. This is an early dismissal day, so our schedule will be altered.

- **INDIVIDUAL** cap and gown pictures are **optional**. We will distribute order forms in late March for those who want to take and order cap and gown pictures on April 9th. Students will bring their own cap and gown to this photo session. If one is needed, please let the photographer know.
- Pictures will be taken at the HS gym by appointment only. More information will come out in late March. We will have a sign-up sheet in the office a week or two before picture day to choose individual appointment times. There is no make-up date scheduled.
- You must pay for your pictures online or by using the Strawbridge order form on picture day. WPA will not collect any payment for these photos. All ordering and payment must be done through Strawbridge Studios.
- The **GROUP** cap and gown photo will also be taken on April 9th. We are calling this photo “**mandatory**” because we want the entire senior class in the picture. This photo will be taken at 12:30 pm at the high school. For the group photo, students will need to wear their cap and gown ensemble, so be sure to have it out of the bag and hanging up for at least a week before this date (April 9th) to straighten out wrinkles. Also, please wear appropriate shoes, as they will be visible in the group picture. The group photo will be available for purchase. More information will be forthcoming as the date gets closer. Strawbridge Studios can be reached at **1-800-326-9080**, or at www.strawbridge.net. Our representative is Cheyleen Christ.

Senior Picnic - April 9, 2025

The senior picnic is scheduled for **Wednesday, April 9, 2025 at 1:00 pm** and will be held on the WPAHS campus. All seniors are invited and encouraged to attend. All food, drink, and activities will be provided. If any parents are interested in donating items for the picnic, we will gladly accept. More information will go out in early March on the picnic and how parents can get involved if they want to help with donations. The picnic is not open to outside guests, underclassmen, or family members (including WPA siblings or children of staff members). The event is for our seniors and high school staff members only, and school-designated parent volunteers. In the event of inclement weather, a rain date or alternate plan will be determined.

Senior Fee - Deadline March 28, 2025 **(December Grads must pay by December 13, 2024)**

As is, and has always been, a senior fee is collected each spring from each graduating senior for several purposes:

- to help defray the cost of diplomas, diploma covers, graduation incidentals, and program printing fees;
- to help defray the cost of senior activities;
- to cover the cost of the senior gift left to the school, which is traditionally something to beautify the campus and also to commemorate each graduating class and their time at WPA.

The senior fee for this year remains \$25 per graduate. The fee must be paid by **Friday, March 28, 2025 (or December 13, 2024 for December grads)**. Payments are accepted daily at the high school from 7:15 am to 3:15 pm and can be made by check, cash, or CashApp to the office secretary or Ms. Weber. Credit card payments will have to be paid at the middle school and the receipt brought over and shown at the high school.

****Please note: students must pay the graduation fee in order to attend the prom. If a student opts to not attend the prom, the fee must be paid before the student can attend graduation practice on May 29. Students who do not attend graduation practice, will not be permitted to participate in the graduation ceremony. The same rules apply for those who owe the 2024-25 instructional fee.***

Junior/Senior Prom – May 10th, 2025

The prom this year will be held at The Barn at Goldsboro Bridge Battlefield on Saturday, May 10th, 2025. Only current WPAHS juniors and seniors may purchase prom tickets, which will be sold at WPAHS during the following dates (note: ticket price increases each subsequent week):

- March 17 - March 28 - ticket price \$40 per person
- March 31 - April 17 - ticket price \$50
- No tickets will be sold at the door
- Tickets are non-refundable and non-transferrable

WPAHS students are permitted to bring a guest pending the pre-approval process. More detailed information will be sent out as the event gets closer.

*****Important Note: Students and their WPA guests who still owe their instructional fee, and/or have not paid their senior fee, may not attend the prom until those fees have been paid. Additionally, the prom is a closed event, which means only WPA students, their guests, and WPA staff may attend. We absolutely welcome parent volunteers for planning and decorating, however, only the school-designated event coordinator is permitted to stay once the event begins.***

Senior Walk – May 9, 2025

The WPAHS traditional senior class walk through the elementary and middle schools will take place on Friday, May 9, 2025. Students who wish to participate will wear their cap and gown ensemble and assemble in the high school gym by 1:10 pm. Once lined up, we will leave the high school at 1:25 and seniors will be escorted as a class over to the lower schools. We will walk first to the elementary school, next to the middle school, and then back to the high school. This is a student event only. We cannot open the lower schools to parent participation, but parents are welcome to view from the parking area as the students walk to each school, to take pictures and/or video.

Academic Awards Night – May 6, 2025

Academic awards night will be held on Tuesday, May 6, 2025 at 6:00 pm at the high school gym. This will be an evening awards ceremony where we will recognize seniors for their academic accomplishments and distinctions. We will also recognize the junior marshals at this ceremony. All award recipients will be given an invitation, but the ceremony is open to anyone who wants to attend: WPA students, friends, family members. ***Please note: not all students will be receiving awards at this event, but all are welcome!*** If a change is made, parents will be notified way ahead of time.

Questions regarding the Academic Awards Ceremony should be directed to Mrs. Cathy White by calling the high school, or via email at cwhite@wpnc.org. The following are some (but not all) of the recognitions that will be included:

- Latin Distinctions (cum laude, summa cum laude, magna cum laude)
- North Carolina Scholars
- Honor Graduates
- Principal's Award
- Perfect Attendance
- SGA Cords and Awards
- FFA Cords and Awards
- Department Awards and Scholarships
- Community and Organization Awards
- Junior Marshal Recognition

Mandatory Graduation Practice - May 29, 2025

WHEN: Thursday, May 29th, 8:30 am - until finished (approximately 12:00 pm)

WHERE: Wayne Community College, Moffatt Auditorium

Graduation practice is **MANDATORY** for all seniors who are participating in the graduation ceremony on May 30. Seniors should report by 8:30 am so that attendance can be taken, instructions can be given, and any outstanding fees can be collected before practice begins. Please note the following important items:

- Please be on time. If people show up late, it pushes back the whole practice for everyone and we will all be there later.
- Students are not permitted to leave practice early. Everyone must stay until the practice is finished. Please plan work and appointment schedules around practice time.
- There is no need to bring your cap and gown to practice. Please use good judgment regarding dress for practice. No hats, hoods, strapless or mid shirts, or short shorts or dresses. You are representing the school and yourself, and we are guests at the college.
- Please eat and drink before you come. There is no food (including gum) allowed in the auditorium, per Wayne Community College policy. You may keep a snack and drink in a bag, but your bag will be in the student lounge and you will not have access to it in the auditorium during practice.
- **There is no cell phone use, no earbuds, and no videoing during practice!** Phones will be required to be turned off and put away. This is non-negotiable. Phones will be confiscated for the duration of the practice if they are seen out or being used.
- No outside people are allowed at practice; parents, friends, siblings may not attend. If someone is bringing you, have them drop you off at the front of the building and pick you up in the same place.
- The senior fee and instructional fee must be paid in order to participate in practice and the ceremony. Any students who have not paid these fees will be directed to a table set up in the college atrium at graduation practice to clear the debt before they will be permitted to enter and participate in practice. **Remember, no practice - no ceremony.**
- All seniors must meet graduation requirements to participate in practice and the ceremony, including attendance.

****Tickets for the graduation ceremony will be distributed to seniors at the end of practice.**

Graduation Ceremony – May 30, 2025

WHEN: Friday, May 30th 2025, at 6:00 pm

WHERE: Wayne Community College, Moffatt Auditorium

SENIORS MUST ARRIVE DRESSED BY 5:00 pm with gowns unzipped and regular clothes fully visible. Please report directly to the student lounge to the left of the auditorium **NO LATER THAN 5:00 pm**.

Dress Code for Graduation/Cap and Gowns:

- **Gentlemen** should wear a light or white-collared shirt, solid-colored tie, solid-colored socks, dress shoes, and formal or semi-formal pants (khaki or dark colors). No graphics or tee-shirts may be worn under the gown. Appropriate dress shoes should be worn. No flip flops, slides, crocs, sneakers or athletic shoes of any kind may be worn.
- **Ladies** should wear dresses, skirts, or dress pants and tops with dress shoes. No crop-top type shirts exposing the midriff, spaghetti-strings, or sleeveless dresses or tops should be worn. No flip flops, slides, crocs, sneakers or athletic shoes of any kind may be worn. Wear comfortable shoes that you can go up and down steps in.

Try on your cap and gown **BEFORE** the day of the ceremony to ensure that it fits properly and check the zipper. If there are any issues, contact **Herf Jones office directly @ 919-581-0355** (our rep is Jay Kornegay). Do not wait until the day of graduation to check your cap and gown!

Hang up your gown at least a week before the ceremony so that the wrinkles will fall out. **Do not attempt to iron, you will destroy the material!**

Getting Dressed:

- Caps are worn with the deepest part of the crown at the back
 - Your tassel should be on the right side.
 - Caps should be placed flat on the head, not at an angle.
 - Caps are **not** to be decorated in any fashion.
- NO additional pins, stoles, dangling jewelry hanging outside of the gown, or other adornments should be worn unless provided or pre-approved by the school.
- NO corsages, bouquets, or single flowers are allowed to be carried and **NO BALLOONS OR NOISEMAKERS** in the auditorium!
- The graduation gown goes on over your clothing,
 - then the Latin Honor Stole (if applicable) – students graduating with Latin Honors will be provided an honor stole to wear during the graduation ceremony. Qualifying seniors will receive these at the Senior Awards Ceremony on May 6, and they may be kept.
 - then the WPAHS collar
 - then the honor cords (if applicable) – NC Scholar/Honor Grad/NHS Club cords will be provided by WPA to wear during the graduation ceremony. Qualifying

seniors will receive cords at the senior awards ceremony on May 6, and may keep these as well. NHS cords will be given out during the spring induction ceremony.

****Note: only cords for NC Scholars, Honor Graduates, and NHS are permitted to be worn to the graduation ceremony.***

The auditorium will open for guests to begin seating at **5:00 pm**. Guests are not permitted to enter the venue early and reserve seats prior to this time, as the auditorium will be locked.

The auditorium doors will close promptly at 6:00 pm. Anyone who arrives after 6:00 pm will have to view the ceremony from the overflow rooms, if seats are available. No exceptions will be made. There is no admittance to the auditorium once the graduates have entered, which marks the beginning of the ceremony.

Standing in aisles, in the back of the auditorium, or on the sides of the rows is not permitted, per Wayne Community College policy and the fire marshall. If you must step out or deal with a restless child, you will need to move to the lobby area.

All children under the age of 14 **MUST** be accompanied by an adult at all times in both the auditorium and overflow areas.

Lapped infants, toddlers, and children will need a ticket. This is non-negotiable due to maximum capacity regulations set by the college. Every guest entering the auditorium will need a ticket to enter, regardless of age. Please understand, capacity is based on bodies, not seats. WPA has no authority to overrule the college policy on maximum capacity.

As each graduate's name is called, we ask parents/guests to lightly applaud. Please remember, this is a distinguished ceremony and it is about our graduates. We understand your family is proud and excited, but we want each family to see their student and hear their student's name being called, so please avoid excessively loud and disruptive behavior that could negatively affect others. Balloons, posters, and any other objects that may block the view of the stage are not permitted to be brought into the auditorium, and we will not have a place to hold these items for guests or graduates.

Parents are free to take personal photos around the campus, but the auditorium will be closed immediately after the ceremony.

Ticket Information:

- This year's graduation is a **100% ticketed event**. No guests of any age will be permitted to enter any of the viewing areas without a ticket.
- Tickets will be distributed to each graduate at the end of graduation practice on May 29. **No tickets will be issued before this date.**
- Each graduate will receive **FIVE colored and numbered** tickets to be used in the main auditorium, and **TWO colored and numbered** tickets for the overflow rooms. These tickets are non-transferable or exchangeable and are only good for the rooms indicated on the ticket. Wristbands will also be issued at the ticket table for each viewing location.
- Capacity is set by the college and the fire marshal. WPA staff cannot override this threshold, nor guarantee seat locations, nor reserve seats for any individual in either the auditorium or overflow rooms.
- Seats are on a first-come-first-served basis. We cannot guarantee groups of seats for all of the members of your party, so please arrive early (beginning at 5:00 pm) for the best chance at securing a specific location and/or number of consecutive seats.
- Tickets will be numbered. Once a ticket is checked in at the ticket table, that ticket is marked as "used." Duplicate tickets will not be accepted.
- We are not offering extra tickets. Students are free to ask around amongst their classmates for extra tickets, but staff members will not be able to accommodate extra ticket requests and we ask that you do not call or email the school for extra tickets.

Speeches:

The process for selecting student speeches for the graduation ceremony will be open to all members of the class of 2025. In mid April, all candidates for graduation will have the opportunity to vie for a speaking role in the ceremony by submitting a written speech to a preselected committee of WPA staff members. The committee will select the top two or three speeches from those submitted and invite those students to present during the ceremony. There will be some guidelines for students to follow, as well as an opportunity to work with a staff member to make necessary edits and revisions, if necessary, and ample opportunity to practice in preparation for delivery on graduation day. ***There will be a hard deadline for submission of speeches. Any student who does not meet the deadline will be disqualified from consideration for a speaking position at the graduation ceremony.***

There will be other students who are selected for speaking parts or roles based on their school affiliations (i.e. SGA, class officers, ranking, etc..) and/or talents/interests (i.e. singing, benediction, presentation of the colors, etc..).

Diplomas:

Official diplomas are given out after the graduation ceremony. The item handed to graduates on stage during the ceremony is only the hardback diploma cover. After the ceremony, students will be able to pick up their actual diploma at a table set up in the atrium of Moffatt Auditorium from Mrs. White and Ms. Gillikin; this is the final diploma.

Important note: The commencement program and diploma jacket are ceremonial documents and are not intended to be the official verification of graduation. The appropriately signed and verified high school transcript and paper diploma is the combined certification of a Wayne Preparatory Academy High School graduate.

Transcripts:

Official graduate transcripts will be issued along with the final diploma at the pickup table following the ceremony. This is the only transcript graduates will receive from the school free of charge. If additional transcripts are needed at any time, students may email Mrs. Cathy White at the high school (cwhite@wpanc.org). The cost of additional official transcripts from WPAHS is \$4 per copy.

Handshake Photos:

Strawbridge Studios will be at graduation to take handshake photos for each senior as they cross the stage and receive their diploma. We will distribute flyers at the diploma table in the WCC atrium after the ceremony that will contain Strawbridge's website and a QR code so parents can find their graduate's photo(s). Photos will be uploaded and available on the site for purchase within 48 hours after graduation. All orders and payments are handled through Strawbridge Studios; WPAHS is not responsible for orders, payment, or problems with orders or photos.

Handicapped seating:

If any guests are in need of special accommodations for auditorium seating, those requests may be made via email to Ms. Weber (bweber@wpanc.org) **no later than May 2, 2025**. There are marked handicapped spaces in the college parking lot, but they will be on a first-come-first-served basis.

Nonnegotiables:

- Seniors may not participate in the graduation ceremony without the 2025 school-selected WPAHS cap and gown graduation ensemble.
- Graduation practice (May 29 @ 8:30 am) is **MANDATORY** for all seniors who are participating in the graduation ceremony on May 30th.
- Graduates must be on time for practice and stay until it is finished.
- All senior fees/debts must be paid in order to participate in practice and the ceremony, including the instructional fee and the senior fee. **Remember, no practice - no ceremony.**
- All seniors must meet graduation requirements by May 29th at 8:30 am to participate in practice and the ceremony.
- Students who show up out of dress code (including shoes) for the ceremony will be required to change clothes in order to participate. If something is in question - bring a backup.
- Each graduate will receive **FIVE** tickets for the main auditorium and **TWO** tickets for the two overflow rooms. There is no entrance into the auditorium or overflow rooms without a ticket for any reason.
- Tickets will be given out to the graduates at the end of graduation practice on May 29th. No tickets will be given out prior to this date and time. Students will sign for their tickets.
- The auditorium doors will close promptly at 6:00 pm. **There is no admittance to the auditorium after 6:00 pm.** Overflow rooms will stay open, but tickets are still required to enter. No exceptions can be made.
- Every guest entering the auditorium will need a ticket to enter, regardless of age. Please understand, capacity is based on bodies, not seats. WPA has no authority to overrule the college or the fire marshall's policies on maximum capacity. Children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult guest.
- The auditorium will open for guests to begin seating at **5:00 pm**. Guests are not permitted to enter the venue earlier than this time (it will remain locked) to reserve seats.
- Campus police will be on duty for our event. If there is an emergency, or if any issues arise regarding compliance to WPAHS graduation ceremony guidelines, this will be the assisting agency.
- Please keep the ceremony dignified. We are ALL very excited for our graduates, but it is a CEREMONY, so please let's keep the integrity of the occasion intact for all of our students and the hard work they have put into reaching this milestone.

Staying Connected to Graduation Updates and Information:

1. Senior meetings:

- November 14 @ 9:45 am - student meeting
- November 14 @ 6:00 pm -parent meeting @ HS Gym
- March 27 @ 9:45 - student meeting
- March 27 @ 6:00 pm - parent meeting @ HS Gym

****Additional Meetings will be scheduled if needed***

2. WPA Website: <https://wpanc.net/>

“High School” Tab > “Graduation” Tab (this will be available by 12/1/24)

3. Parent Group Email List: bweber@wpanc.org or cwhite@wpanc.org to be added to the parent group email list, or with any updates to your email contact info.

4. WPAHS Facebook Page - updates are continuously added; please follow our HIGH SCHOOL Facebook page AND the general WPA Facebook page.

5. Questions:

- concerning graduation and/or graduation events/activities > Barb Weber at bweber@wpanc.org or Sam Fisher at sfisher@wpanc.org.
- concerning senior trip - TBD
- concerning prom > Barb Weber at bweber@wpanc.org or Olivia Meeder at omeeder@wpanc.org.
- concerning senior awards, transcripts, GPA, credits, diplomas, class rank, college info, financial aid > Cathy White at cwhite@wpanc.org.
- concerning Herff Jones cap and gown orders, class rings, graduation supplies > Jay Kornegay at 919-581-0355
- concerning cap and gown photos, class group photo, graduation handshake photos > Chyleen Christ at 1-800-326-9080, or at www.strawbridge.net.

6. Please be aware that changes may need to be made throughout this process, but will always be shared via parent email, BrightArrow announcements, the WPA/WPA High School Facebook page, and/or the graduation tab on the WPA website.