



Class of 2017 Senior Newsletter

The end of the year is filled with many celebrations for the Class of 2017. The intent of this newsletter is to inform you of important dates, times, and details related to the end of the year events. Please read over this information carefully, check the website for updates, and stop by the Main Office with any questions.

Important Dates (details are included in the newsletter)

March 2017: Graduation announcements available for pickup during lunch periods in the atrium (date TBA later)

March 7: Informational meeting for students interested in speaking at graduation at 2:45 p.m. in A101A

April 6: Auditions for graduation speakers

April 2016: Cap & Gown pickup during lunch periods in the atrium (date TBD later)

April 24: Senior Honors Recognition Night form is due to Counseling and Advising

May 8: Senior Honors Recognition Night at 7:00 p.m. in the Batavia Fine Arts Center

May 6: Prom at Bobak's Signature Events, Woodridge, IL

May 19: Last day to pay fines

May 19: Last day of school for seniors (full day of school)

May 22: Baccalaureate in the Cafeteria (optional)

May 23: Senior breakfast, class photo and graduation rehearsal (Price for photo and breakfast will be announced at a later date.)

9:00 a.m. Class panoramic photo in the gym (optional)

9:15 a.m. Graduation rehearsal in the BHS gym (mandatory)

May 24: Graduation at 7:00 p.m. at the NIU Convocation Center

Graduation

Our graduation ceremony will be at the Northern Illinois University (NIU) Convocation Center in DeKalb, Illinois on Wednesday, May 24. The NIU Convocation Center seats 10,000 people so **tickets will not be needed** for BHS graduates, families, or friends! BATV will continue its tradition of streaming the Graduation Ceremony. Please check the BATV website (www.mybatv.com) for details about the streaming.

1. MyBATV.com, Watch live, Channel 17
2. You Tube - Search BATV 1017

Participation in the ceremony is optional. Students who do not participate can pick up their diploma during the summer. There are several mandatory requirements for students who will be participating:

- Students must fulfill all BPS graduation requirements.
- **Attendance and appropriate behavior at the graduation rehearsal on Tuesday, May 23 at 9:15 a.m. in the Batavia High School gym is required.**
- Seniors must be in good standing in order to participate in the graduation ceremony. Discipline referrals, participation in pranks, or other conduct violations will be considered in determining if a student is in good standing. All detentions must be served prior to graduating.
- All class, library, activity or athletic obligations and fines must be cleared by 2:45 p.m. on Tuesday, May 19. Lockers must also be emptied by this time.

Commencement at NIU Convocation Center

Before the Ceremony

Arrival: The commencement ceremony will begin promptly at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 24. When you enter the Convocation parking lot, please use entrances 2 - 5. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. for graduates and guests. Graduates should check-in no later than 6:20 p.m. in the auxiliary gymnasium which is located in the lower level by entrance #5. (6:00 p.m. – 6:15 p.m. may be used to take pictures). Guests may proceed to the main arena and find seats. General seating is available for guests, and handicapped accessible seating is available.

Location: The Convocation Center is located on NIU's West Campus, north of Lincoln Highway, west of the soccer field and west of Huskie Stadium:

NIU Convocation Center
1525 West Lincoln Highway
DeKalb, IL 60115-2854

Directions from I-88: Exit onto Annie Glidden Road. From Annie Glidden Road, turn left (west) onto Lincoln Highway (Route 38) to the Convocation Center entrance.

Parking: From the main entrance on Lincoln Highway (Rt. 38), parking attendants will assist you in parking in one of the lots. There is no fee for parking for this event, and there is ample parking for the BHS graduation.

What to Bring and What NOT to Bring: NIU staff will check all bags prior to entry into the Convocation Center. NIU prohibits outside food and beverages, large bags or backpacks, noisemakers, balloons, signs, posters, strollers and aerosol hair spray. Graduates should not bring valuables with them to the staging area since these items cannot be secured during the ceremony. Graduates should iron their gown prior to arrival and carry the gowns into the Convocation Center. Graduates will be allowed to put on their gowns in the staging area after they have been checked-in by Batavia staff.

Honor Stoles: Students graduating with honors will wear highly visible stoles that signify their accomplishment. Stoles will be handed out the night of graduation in the auxiliary gym. Minimum GPA requirements are 3.5 for a red stole, 4.0 for a gold stole, and 4.375 for a white stole.

Transportation Options

We are requesting that students drive with their families to DeKalb. For your safety, we are not allowing students to drive to the ceremony together. We know that students may be distracted due to the excitement of the evening, and riding to the ceremony with other students may increase their distractions. We will have staff members in the parking lot ensuring that this safety rule is followed. If you have transportation issues/concerns, please contact JoAnne Smith @ joanne.smith@bps101.net.

During The Ceremony

Graduation Attire at the Ceremony: Graduation from Batavia High School is celebrated at a formal ceremony. Students must wear dress clothes under their graduation gowns. Males usually wear a collared dress shirt, dress slacks, and dress shoes. Females usually wear dresses and formal shoes (flats or heels). Gym shoes, jeans, flip flops, shorts, and other casual clothes are not allowed. If students are not properly dressed, they will not be allowed to participate in the ceremony. **Graduates are not allowed to have artwork or decorations on their caps or gowns.** The only acceptable items are the honor stoles and cords provided by the school.

Commencement Ceremony (continued)

Graduation Decorum: Graduation from high school is a source of individual joy and celebration, and the actual ceremony is a formal public gathering of friends and family. We maintain high expectations for appropriate behavior during the ceremony. These expectations will be discussed with the seniors at graduation rehearsal. Students whose behavior is deemed inappropriate during the ceremony will be removed from the ceremony by staff. If a student is removed from the ceremony, their family will be contacted and asked to leave the Convocation Center. Guests in the audience are asked to withhold applause during the presentation of diplomas until the end of the presentation.

Diplomas: Students will be given a diploma cover during the presentation of diplomas. The official diplomas with the students' names will be distributed after the ceremony.

Photography: BHS has arranged for professional photographs to be taken by Grad Images during the commencement ceremonies as each student receives a diploma cover. Information about purchasing these photos will be sent to the graduates from Grad Images. Families are welcome to take additional photos from their seats. To assure that all graduates, their families, and friends may enjoy and view the ceremony, we ask that guests are considerate of one another when taking photographs. For safety purposes, guests will not be allowed to stand along the rails or in the aisles to take pictures.

After the Ceremony

Graduates will proceed back to the auxiliary gym where they are to drop off the rental gown and obtain a ticket. After the gown has been returned, they will proceed to their original assigned table, hand in their ticket and pick up their diploma. Graduates may keep the cap and the tassel. Guests are asked to remain in their seats until all graduates and participants in the recessional have exited. Families are encouraged to designate a reunification point after the ceremony at door #2 – 5.

Please note: This is a rental graduation gown. If you did not order your cap and gown, please call Herff-Jones at 815-756-4743 or you may email them at www.herffjonesil.com.

Miscellaneous Information for the Class of 2017

Senior Final Exams

- Teachers will inform all students how their final grade will be assessed. For some courses, this includes a traditional final exam and for some courses it may include a performance assessment.
- There will not be a specific schedule for senior finals for second semester. All assessments for seniors will be given in their normal class time. Some courses may give a summative assessment in the final days of school.

Senior Honors Recognition Night

This year's Senior Honors Recognition Night will be at the Batavia Fine Arts Centre on Monday, May 8, at 7:00 p.m. To be included in the ceremony, students must turn in the form on the last page of this newsletter so the Counseling and Advising staff can plan for the ceremony. Please complete the form on the last page of this newsletter and return to the Counseling and Advising Office by 3:00 pm on Monday, April 24th.

Graduation Speakers

Students can audition for speeches given during the graduation ceremony. An informational meeting will be held in A101A on Tuesday, March 7, at 2:45 p.m..

Senior Class Breakfast

The Senior Breakfast will be held in the cafeteria on Tuesday, May 23, at 8:00 a.m. Ticket prices will be announced at a later date. You are strongly encouraged to attend. Time Capsules from RMS will be distributed at this breakfast. The Time Capsules will be returned to RMS after the breakfast.

Senior Class Panoramic Photo

The Senior Class Panoramic Photo will be taken in the gymnasium prior to rehearsal on Tuesday, May 23, at 9:00 am. The photo will be shipped directly to your home. Order forms will be available a week prior to the picture and can be picked up in Student Services, the Counseling and Advising office and the Main office. They will also be available the day of the picture.

Herff Jones – Announcements and Graduation Caps & Gowns

Families can choose to purchase graduation announcements from Herff Jones. If you did order announcements, Herff Jones will be here in March during lunch periods – Herff Jones will send out an announcement and it will be posted on our website. Rental cap and gowns are to be ordered from Herff Jones and turned in after the ceremony. You may keep the cap & tassel. Herff Jones will communicate details about these purchases to the families. Herff Jones will be delivering the caps & gowns mid April, during lunch periods. If you are unsure if you ordered your rental cap and gown, you may contact Herff Jones directly at highschool.herffjones.com or you may call them at 815-756-4743.

Final Transcripts

Seniors attending graduation rehearsal will complete a form indicating their preference for sending final transcripts. Seniors not attending graduation can contact Mrs. Rydholm in the Counseling and Advising office to submit their information.

Immunization Records

All colleges require immunization records before enrolling. Every senior will be given a copy of their immunization records at the graduation rehearsal. Please check your university requirements and discuss with your doctor the need for the meningococcal vaccine.

Graduation DVD

Batavia Access Television is proud to be covering the 2017 Batavia High School Graduation Ceremony. If you would like to purchase copies of this event on DVD, please send a check for \$25 (per copy) made out to BATV, along with your mailing address to: BATV, P.O. Box 731, Batavia, IL 60510.

Chromebooks

Specific information will be shared with seniors and their parents about the return or purchase of student Chromebooks.

Hug & Kiss a Senior

The BHS Key Club will send information to senior parents about the 'Hug & Kiss a Senior' program. These will be available for pick up by the graduates at the conclusion of graduation practice.

Yard Signs

Graduation yard signs can be purchased on Powerschool. These need to be purchased by March 15th in order to ensure timely delivery.

BPS Email/Google Accounts

All class of 2017 BPS accounts will be shut down on June 30th. An email with specific directions on saving data will be sent to your BPS email account in the spring.

Prom

Below you will find a few details regarding Prom. Since this event is still being worked on, updated information will be posted on our website and/or Twitter (@BataviaHS) at a later date. In the meantime – here are the details we have so far:

Date Saturday, May 6, 2017

Location Bobak's Signature Events
6440 Double Eagle Drive
Woodridge, IL 60517

Transportation

Students will arrange their own transportation to and from Bobak's. BHS will not be providing transportation.

Schedule

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| 6:00 pm | Students begin arriving for pictures and seating |
| 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm | Plated Dinner and Dessert |
| 8:30 pm – 11:30 pm | Dancing and Coronation |
| 11:30 pm | Students begin departing for Post Prom at Funway |
| 11:30pm | Post Prom at Funway |

Ticket Sales

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| Cost: | TBA at a later date |
| When: | TBA at a later date |
| Where: | BHS Ticket Booth |

Additional Prom info will follow at a later date. Please check the BHS website for updated information.

Post Prom:

Annually, BHS parent volunteers host a Post Prom event at Funway in Batavia. The event begins after prom, and the cost of the event is included in the prom ticket. Juniors and seniors who are not attending prom can attend post prom if they purchase a ticket. More details will be posted on the BHS website.

Senior Awards & Scholarship Recognition Night

Monday, May 8, 2017, 7:00 p.m.

Batavia Fine Arts Centre

Students will be recognized for their outstanding achievements in the areas of academic merit, community service, college awards & scholarships, and BHS departmental awards.

- Students must arrive by 6:30 and report to the check-in table in the Batavia Fine Arts Centre.
- Students arriving after the program has started must report to Mrs. Rydholm in the auditorium in order to be acknowledged at the awards ceremony.
- Students are asked to dress appropriately for this event. Acceptable forms of attire include:
 - *Young men: business casual such as khakis, shirt and tie or dress shirt; no jeans or athletic shoes.
 - *Young ladies: business casual such as dress, skirt or dress pants; no jeans, shorts, athletic shoes or flip flops.

All seniors attending Awards & Scholarship Recognition Night should submit scholarship recipient information below (please list **ONLY** the scholarships you are accepting). **Attach a copy of the letter from the college, university or organization that has awarded you the scholarship/award.** Because of the class size and magnitude of recipients, we must have an accurate account of the awards being recognized. Thank you for your cooperation!

Seniors must complete this form and return it to the Counseling & Advising Office no later than Monday, April 24 to receive recognition in the program and at Senior Awards & Scholarship Recognition Night. ELECTRONIC COPIES ARE NOT ACCEPTED.

Name: _____

School attending in fall of 2017: _____

Scholarship(s) you are **accepting**: (Please list and attach a copy of the award letter.) List **ONLY** scholarships you are accepting. For example, if you were offered a scholarship to ISU but are attending NIU, do not list the ISU scholarship. **Please note that scholarship AMOUNTS will not be announced or listed in the program and are only used for statistical purposes. Please indicate if each scholarship is a one-time award or is renewable each year. Thank you!**

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| Scholarship Name: | Scholarship Amount: | One-time or Renewable: |
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