



TWHS Senior 411 Guide

A Guide for TWHS Students (and their parents) for Senior Year

Welcome to your senior year! The PTO has put together this simple guide to summarize important details leading up to graduation of your senior.

College and Career Counseling Center.

TWHS is fortunate to have a College and Career Counseling Center with a dedicated counseling staff, located on the Main Campus second floor. All college representatives visiting campus are scheduled and coordinated through this center. If your senior is not familiar with this center, please encourage them to visit. Parents and seniors will also receive periodic emails from the College and Career Counseling Center; contact the Center directly if you are not receiving these emails.

Family Connection Naviance

CISD provides all high school students with a Naviance Family Connection account. If your senior does not have an account in Family Connection, contact the College and Career Counseling Center. As a parent, you should also have access to view your student's account. Each Family Connection account is populated with your student's SAT & ACT test scores, rank, and course records. Upcoming visits by college representative are announced here. In addition the program has many tools for evaluating colleges and options beyond high school. Scattergrams show the test scores and GPAs of other students who graduated from TWHS and were admitted to many colleges. There are also links to college web sites. Family Connection also has several career interest exploration tools that can help your senior determine their future path. Finally, senior announcements are placed on the homepage of your students account.

Senior Pictures

Yearbook photos of each senior are taken at Blu Moon Photography. You must have your photo taken at Blu Moon by late September or you will not appear in the yearbook. **No yearbook pictures of seniors will be taken at school.** (Only yearbook photos of students in grades 9, 10, & 11 are taken at school.) Information about Blue Moon Photography and senior yearbook photos is sent to all registered rising seniors. If you did not receive this information, it is posted on the TWHS school website under yearbooks: <http://thewoodlandyearbook.com/SeniorPortrait.html> The Blu Moon website is blumoonphoto.com. There is a fee of \$10 to take the yearbook photo. If you have questions about any of this, you can contact: thewoodlandyearbook@gmail.com

Blu Moon and other photographers offer "Senior Portrait packages," which include a variety of poses and settings. These portrait packages are optional. Many families use these photos for Senior Ads, however they cannot be used in place of the yearbook photo.

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Senior Ads

Many student families purchase Senior Ads. The ads appear in the TWHS yearbook and provide a way to highlight your senior's activities and growth in the years leading up to graduation. The size ranges from a quarter- to a full-page spread of the graduating senior; prices vary accordingly. The applications, associated fees, photos, and information for the ads are submitted to the TWHS yearbook department. The student yearbook staff can help you arrange your ad or you may provide the completed ad. **They are due around late October each year.** Most Ads are purchased for a single students; however many TWHS booster clubs and Woodlands area community organizations purchase ads honoring seniors affiliated with their group. More information is available on the yearbook website: <http://thewoodlandyearbook.com/>

Senior Dues

Senior Dues are a single fee paid by all seniors to cover important costs related to senior year. The cost is about \$90 and is due in early February; late fees are incurred after this date. Parents are encouraged to pay senior dues online at the TWHS Web Store, though they may be paid through the Grade Level Office. Senior dues are optional. Seniors do not have to pay any dues to graduate; however you will not be able to participate in many important senior events (see below).

This fee includes: your ticket to the Senior Prom, Prom favor, Prom Decorations, Rental of Hotel ballroom for Prom (including food), DJ at Prom, Prom Program (containing Senior class favorites, etc.), Senior t-shirt (given out during Prom week), King & Queen Crowns given during Prom, food at the Senior picnic, rental of park for Senior picnic, DJ at Senior picnic, Senior College Wall, Senior Awards night (programs, certificates, decorations), Senior Achievement Award Scholarships, graduation at the pavilion (including rental of pavilion and graduation program).

This fee does not include: Graduation Highlanders, any expenses associated with graduation (Cap, Gown or Announcements), Prom date ticket if your date is not a Senior or attends another school, Homecoming ticket, Panoramic Class Picture, personal prom pictures.

For Early Graduates: Seniors that graduate early may still pay dues and participate in all activities. An early graduate cannot go as a date to prom. They are considered Class of 2015 and must pay dues.

Senior Dues & Prom: Seniors who do not pay their dues will not be allowed to attend prom as a date. If a senior attends prom, Senior Dues must be paid or they will be escorted off the premises. Seniors are NOT able to pick and choose what their dues cover.

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Cap & Gown and Graduation Announcements

Seniors are required to wear a cap & gown to graduation. Herff Jones supplies all caps and gowns; they visit TWHS in March to take orders. In addition, students may order the official TWHS graduation announcements, as well as a variety of other graduation items. The cost of a cap & gown is about \$40. You may wear a cap & gown from a previous TWHS Senior if it fits, but you may want to purchase the current year tassel for the cap.

Some students prefer to order their graduation announcements from an independent vender; however these announcements will not have the TWHS school seal. Blu Moon Photography provides these announcements as well as several on-line vendors.

Senior Prom

Senior Prom is held at the Marriott Waterway Hotel in mid-May from 8pm-midnight. The ticket to prom is paid with your Senior Dues. If you did not pay your Senior Dues, you cannot attend Prom (see Senior Dues above). Students are allowed to invite underclassmen or non-TWHS students as their dates. Dates for prom MUST be under 21. If Dates are not a TWHS student, they must have photo ID at prom.. All textbook, uniform, transcript and library fines or fees must be cleared in advance. Students must provide their own transportation to and from prom. This event is sponsored by the TWHS Student Council, with administrators serving as chaperones.

Senior Awards Night

This is held in mid-May in the auditorium. Seniors who receive university scholarships or academic, athletic, booster club, community, or other awards are honored at this event. Families are invited to attend and celebrate their senior's accomplishments.

Senior Picnic

The Senior Picnic is held at one of The Woodlands area parks. All seniors are invited to attend, as long as they have paid their senior dues. Picnic highlights include a DJ, volleyball, lawn games, and vendors such as Kona Ice. It is a fun opportunity for seniors to spend a little time together prior to graduation. Parents do not attend. The picnic is usually scheduled the weekday before graduation.

Graduation Practice/Tickets/Graduation

Graduation is scheduled for the first week of June and is held at the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion. Mandatory Graduation practice is held the morning of graduation. Seniors must arrive at school by 8:30am on graduation day to board school buses that will take them to the Pavilion for practice. Students are not allowed to drive themselves to and from practice. The only way for a student to receive these tickets is by riding the bus home from graduation practice. Following practice, each student will receive 4 assigned seating tickets to graduation for their families and friends. These 4 tickets are free and are under the covered awning of the pavilion. If students need additional tickets, there is unlimited lawn seating, and free lawn chairs are provided. There is no charge for anyone to attend

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graduation. If you are parking in the pavilion garage, you may have to pay a fee for parking. Handicap seating is easily available for any who need it. Graduation takes place rain or shine.

As part of Graduation Highlanders fundraising campaign, 4 sets of 6 seats and a parking pass will be offered for silent auction in May for graduation. The winners of these packages will receive these tickets in addition to the 4 seats they receive for free. This is an optional fundraiser for Graduation Highlanders. Further information will be released in May.

Graduation Highlanders: Main Event

To keep our graduating seniors safe, the PTO offers an all night lock-in party in a safe, substance-free atmosphere. It is a fun time and is the seniors' last chance to socialize with their whole class. This event is organized by PTO parent volunteers and funded by donations and ticket sales. The party is held at Main Event from 11pm-5am, following the graduation ceremony at the Pavilion. Traditionally at least 80% of the graduating class will attend. Many students win great prizes, such as TVs, electronic tablets, gift cards, and items for college. Seniors can play unlimited Main Event games, billiards, laser tag, and bowling. Casino games are also open along with a Money Machine. Main Event provides all you can eat food and soft drinks.

Transportation to and from Graduation Highlanders is NOT provided. Parents are STRONGLY encouraged to drop off and pick up their students; many students are too tired to drive home at 5am.

All seniors must purchase a ticket to attend the event. Tickets are available for purchase beginning in early spring at a discount; prices increase as the date of the event approaches. This event is open to seniors graduating from TWHS only. Seniors are not permitted to bring dates from other grades or other schools.

Volunteers are required to run this event. Parents from all grades are asked to volunteer in a pay-it-forward concept. Many parents of seniors volunteer also, but since many will have guests in town for graduation, we need the help of underclass parents or even college students. Planning meetings will be held in the fall and information will be disseminated via the TWHS school newsletter. Any tax-deductible donations by families and businesses are very welcome.

More information is available on the PTO website: www.TWHSPTO.org or you can go to: www.twhsgrad.org

If you have a question that is not addressed in this guide, PLEASE let us know so we can add it! Email TWHSPTO@gmail.com