



Maine South High School

1111 South Dee Road, Park Ridge, IL 60068-4379
847.825.7711 | www.south.maine207.org

DR. ANTWAN BABAKHANI
PRINCIPAL

MRS. ERICA WAGNER
ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL
Teaching and Learning

DR. IRIS SMITH
ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL
HR and Instructional Operations

DR. JENNIFER SHERIDAN
ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL
Student and Family Services

MR. MICHAEL EDWARDS
ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL
Student Experiences

Dear Parents and Seniors:

As we approach the end of the second semester, plans are well underway for the celebrations marking the end of our senior students' time at Maine South. Commencement represents a major milestone in the lives of our students and we want to thank parents and caregivers for the dedicated support you have provided them through the past years of hard work and growth. Please review this document closely and discuss it with your student as it highlights important dates and expectations for the remainder of the year.

COMMENCEMENT INFORMATION – Sunday, May 17, 2026

An enduring “senior tradition” is the Maine South Commencement, a formal, dignified ceremony. Respectful behavior is expected of the graduates during Commencement. **We kindly ask that you help us make our Commencement a dignified ceremony by discussing appropriate behavior with your student.**

- **LOGISTICS:**

- Date/Time: The formal Commencement Ceremony is Sunday, May 17, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. at the Rosemont Theatre. The theatre will be open to students and guests at 10:00 a.m. Please note that the doors on the main floor will close promptly at 10:50 a.m. to allow for the start of the processional. The ceremony will last approximately 1 ½ to 2 hours.
- **Students must report to their counselor no later than 10:15 a.m. on the morning of Commencement; later arrival may result in a student not being able to participate.**
- For this formal ceremony all students will wear caps and gowns. Additionally, the following is recommended attire under gowns: collared dress shirts, ties, dress pants, dresses, skirts, and dress shoes. Please note that flip-flops are not recommended and high-heeled shoes are strongly discouraged as students will be processing down a sloped aisle, climbing stairs to the stage, and walking across the stage in front of hundreds of people. No flowers or corsages will be permitted to be worn or carried during the ceremony; additionally, balloons and inflatables are not permitted in the theater.
- **Please be sure your student is dressed in accordance with the requirements outlined above and has their cap and gown. Any student not adhering to the dress code will not be permitted to walk in Commencement.**
- Students are expected to follow the directions and rules that will be shared with them prior to the ceremony. Unfortunately, graduates who are non-compliant before or during the ceremony may be escorted out of the venue and would not participate in Commencement.

- **AUDIENCE COURTESY:** Graduation from high school is a major accomplishment for all students. Please refrain from any outbursts or prolonged acknowledgment when an individual student's name is called. While these expressions are well-intended, they can make it difficult to hear the next name called; that student and their family deserve the same level of recognition and dignity as all students graduating.

- **CAPS, GOWNS AND TASSELS:** Sizing information was collected earlier in the school year. Caps are one-size fits all up to size 7 ½. Payment was taken care of through your school fees at the start of the year. Cap, gown and tassel are yours to keep. **Both the senior survey and FAFSA (or waiver if students didn't file the FAFSA) need to be completed before cap and gown pickup.** Distribution will take place on the following dates in the bookstore.
 - Monday, May 11, 2026
 - Tuesday, May 12, 2026

- **TICKETS:** Each student will receive 6 tickets to the Commencement Ceremony which will be distributed with their cap and gown.
 - In the event you require additional tickets, first we ask that you reach out to families you know who will not be using their allotted tickets.
 - If you are unable to secure additional tickets, you may contact the administrative assistant to the principal, Shannon Faherty, via email at sfaherty@maine207.org or via phone at (847)-692-8206 and request to be added to a waiting list for additional tickets.
 - Note: the number of additional tickets will not be determined until after all caps and gowns have been distributed on May 12th.

- **PARKING:** There are approximately 500 free parking spaces available, many of which will be taken by our graduates who often drive separately and arrive earlier than their parents. Once those spots are full, graduates and guests alike will need to find parking elsewhere. There will be plenty of parking in the Convention Center Parking Garage; however, anyone parking there will need to pay (approximately \$15) to park in the garage.
 - The Convention Center Parking Garage is a fifteen-minute walk from the Rosemont Theatre. Additionally, there will most likely be increased traffic volume due to our graduation ceremony and other events in the area. Please plan accordingly and give yourself and your child sufficient time to arrive.
 - The theatre will be open to students and guests at 10:00 a.m. **Again, students must report to their counselor by 10:15 a.m. to walk in Commencement.**
 - **DIPLOMAS:** Official diplomas will be handed out by counselors following the ceremony.

- **FLOWERS FOR GRADUATION:** Flowers may be pre-ordered for pick up in the lobby of the Rosemont Theatre. Flowers will also be available for purchase before and after the ceremony at the theatre through The Commencement Group on the evening of graduation. This service is provided for your convenience should you desire **to present flowers to your graduate *after* the ceremony.** If you would like further information or to pre-order flowers, please visit [The Commencement Group](#) website.

- **GRADUATION PHOTOGRAPHS:** Professional photographers from Visual Image Photography will photograph the graduates as they receive their diplomas. The photograph proofs will be emailed to parents as well as mailed home for purchasing. For questions or concerns, please contact: VIP Customer Service Department, Phone: (262) 375-4457 or VIPIS.COM. All Senior Event information can also be found on our website on the Senior Events pages. To access the page from the Maine South homepage, click on the Quicklinks button at the top of the page entitled [Senior Events](#).

All Senior Event information can also be found on our website on the Senior Events pages. To access the page from the Maine South homepage, click on the Quicklinks button at the top of the page entitled [Senior Events](#).

Please Note: One of the most important things we do as a school is to ensure everyone's safety and well-being. Please remember in the coming weeks that any actions students might choose to take that would compromise the safety and well-being of others or that might result in damage to school property could result in them not being able to participate in some or all end-of-the-year activities including Prom, Senior Breakfast, and Graduation - which would be very unfortunate for the students and their families.

Please keep the end of the year positive by making good decisions - and helping each other make good decisions - and exemplifying what Hawk PRIDE is all about!

Again, congratulations to you all!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Edwards".

Michael Edwards
Associate Principal of Student Experiences