



BROOKLINE HIGH SCHOOL  
115 GREENOUGH STREET  
BROOKLINE, MA 02445

Summer Williams  
Interim Dean of Students  
(617) 713-5218

[Summer\\_Williams@psbma.org](mailto:Summer_Williams@psbma.org)

Lisa Redding  
Associate Dean  
(617) 713-5038

[Lisa\\_Redding@psbma.org](mailto:Lisa_Redding@psbma.org)

Astrid Allen  
Associate Dean  
(617) 713-5267

[Astrid\\_Allen@psbma.org](mailto:Astrid_Allen@psbma.org)

April 10, 2023

Dear Class of 2023 Seniors, Parents and Caregivers:

As our seniors begin the fourth quarter of their final year at BHS, we write to touch base on several fronts. Speaking for the entire faculty of Brookline High School, we have been very fortunate to witness the growth and accomplishments of the Class of 2023. Our seniors have demonstrated high levels of commitment in many areas: academic, athletic, artistic and social justice. While we want to rejoice in your student's growth and accomplishments, we also need to begin planning for them leaving us.

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 (AtPP). It's a long list but very important. **Please read this entire document carefully and take time to discuss it with your student.** We want to be clear and to avoid any incidents that may disrupt a celebratory and dignified ending to the year.

## **Senior Calendar**

- April 24      **Prom, After-the-Prom Party and Cap & Gown tickets on sale!** All seniors must purchase a cap & gown in order to participate in graduation. **All payments are to be made via check or money order ONLY. We will accept payments starting April 24.**
- April 26      **Mandatory Senior Webinar Assembly during T-block in your Advisory class.** Attendance will be taken! We will discuss Graduation details, Prom, and the After-the-Prom Party details and expectations.
- April 28      **Last day to purchase 2023 Yearbook!** Yearbooks need to be pre-purchased directly with [Jostensyearbooks.com](http://Jostensyearbooks.com)
- May 1-12      Advanced Placement exams will be given for students who have opted to take them.
- May 2        **Special Awards Program** in the Roberts & Dubbs Auditorium for academic excellence and citizenship. Award recipients and their families will receive individual invitations. Invited students are encouraged to attend.
- May 5        **All past due items** owed to BHS from your Freshman, Sophomore, and Junior years (textbooks, athletic equipment and fees, etc.) must be returned to the appropriate department.

- May 5      **Musicians/singers for graduation deadline:** Seniors interested in playing an instrument or singing at graduation should submit their names and proposed performance to Dean Allen by Friday, May 5. Auditions will be scheduled for after school on Wednesday, May 10th in the band room. Mr. Driscoll, Ms. Castellano & Deans, will help select the final performers
- Because the number of performance slots is limited, group performances are more likely to be accepted.
  - Auditionees need to come to the audition with a clear idea of what piece they want to do, who is in the group, and need to be able to demonstrate at least some level of competency on the piece they wish to perform.
  - Any instruments you need will have to be provided by you.
  - The performance should be 3-4 minutes maximum in duration.
  - If you are performing a song, the words should somehow relate to the theme of graduation.
- May 8      **Graduation speaker deadline:** If you are interested in speaking at graduation, please submit a 3-5 minute audition video to Dean Redding by Monday, May 8th. A smaller group will be selected for live auditions the week of May 15th. You will be evaluated for appropriateness of message, delivery, and clarity of thought. We do not expect a finished speech, but the more you have completed, the better you will do.
- May 10     **Last Senior PTO meeting with BPEN** will take place in the MLK Room at 7:00 pm.  
**THE POST-BHS TRANSITION -- WHAT SENIOR PARENTS NEED TO KNOW**  
 Whether heading off to college or the military, staying close to home for a gap year, or planning to work, the transition from high school life is a big change. The Senior PTO and B-PEN present a special evening with guest speaker Dr. Anjini Virmani, BHS Social Worker Abby Dean, and some recent BHS grads who will address this milestone from both parent and student perspectives. The program will include information on current trends, safety tips, practical messaging regarding alcohol/drug use, and useful strategies for letting go while maintaining open communication. Dr. Virmani will share important information about dealing with college student medical needs away from home, including HIPAA health privacy guidelines and a “medical tool kit.”
- May 12     **Deadline to purchase Prom & After-the-Prom Party Ticket and to turn in all contracts is 3:00 pm.**
- May 12     **Deadline to purchase your graduation Cap & Gown is at 3:00 pm.**
- May 24     **Last Senior PTO meeting with our Guidance Department:**  
 BHS Alumni Student Virtual Panel on Post-High School Experience  
 6:30 pm on Zoom with Darby Neff-Verre and Lenny Libenzon.
- May 24-25 **Senior Final Exams** will be given in class.
- May 25     **The Brookline High School Scholarship Ceremony** will take place beginning at 6:00 pm in the STEM Commons at BHS and then continue in the Roberts & Dubbs Auditorium. Scholarship recipients will be invited to attend.
- May 26     **Deadline for seniors to return all current year materials** to their teachers or respective departments and pay any outstanding fees. Payments must be made in cash to the department in which the item is owed. Please resolve any outstanding debt directly with the issuing department.

- May 26      **Last day of classes for Seniors!** Seniors will gather with the Class of 2023 in the Quad to count down the final seconds of their high school careers and celebrate this milestone. More information soon!
- May 30      **Brookline High School Senior Prom** will be held at the House of Blues from 7:00 pm - 11:00 pm. See more information below.
- May 30-31    **After-the-Prom Party from 11:00 pm until 5:00 am. Any student who attends the ATPP must stay until at least 3:30 am.** See more information below.
- June 1      **Seniors will clean out their lockers** and remove the lock from their locker. Items left in lockers will be discarded or donated to charity.
- June 1      **Annual Senior Check-Out Day** in Schluntz Gym from 10:00 am -12:30 pm
- Clear all hold slips (BHS owned items you have borrowed).
  - Complete Senior Exit Survey on Naviance. **You do not have to wait until Senior Day! Do it now!**
    - Log into Naviance.
    - Click on Colleges I am Applying To.
    - Click on the pencil sign (EDIT) next to each college and indicate your result for each school (accept, deny, waitlist).
  - **No senior will be allowed to pick up a cap & gown until all outstanding items (including cap & gown payment) are returned or paid for and the Naviance survey completed.**
  - Pick up cap & gown.
  - Pick up your 2023 Yearbook and hang out in the gym and on Cypress Field with classmates and sign Yearbooks! Bring pens!
  - **Participate in a mandatory graduation rehearsal in the Schluntz Gym at 2:30 pm.**
- June 4      **GRADUATION!** All seniors must report for the pre-processional line-up at 12:15 pm. (see below for more specifics on graduation.)

## **Prom & After-the-Prom Party**

### **April 24 - May 12 Prom & After-the-Prom Party tickets on sale**

*Only Seniors are allowed to purchase Prom & AtPP tickets.*

*Prom contracts and payment are due by Friday, May 12 at 3pm.*

*All checks or money orders must be made out to Brookline High School and include BHS student name and "Senior package" written on the memo line.*

*Submit payments to office 162 @ 115 or the main office @ 22 Tappan.*

**[DIGITAL BHS Student Prom Contract](#)** - for Seniors and their BHS student guest

Please bring completed **[Outside Guest contracts](#)** to the Deans' Suite - Room 354

**Senior Package:** The Senior Package includes the cost of the Prom & AtPP (\$180.00) and the required Cap & Gown purchase (\$25.00) for a total of **\$205**. (Any senior may purchase an After-the-Prom Party ticket only for \$30.00). Any senior not attending the Prom or AtPP is required to purchase a Cap & Gown (\$25.00). **A Cap & Gown is required for graduation.** *Seniors seeking financial assistance should contact their guidance counselor by Friday, May 5.*

**Before Prom Check-In 5:45-6:30 pm:** Students must bring their bag with their change of clothes to the entrance of the Quad to be searched beginning at 5:45pm. **No bags will be allowed on the bus or at the prom.** Small purses are permitted at the prom and must be no bigger than 10" x 10". Every BHS student and guest must have identification (school ID, driver's license, etc.) on them throughout the event.

**Transportation to the Prom:** **EVERY student attending the Prom is required to take the bus from BHS to the House of Blues and then back to BHS for the After-the-Prom Party.** The last bus to the House of Blues will leave BHS at 6:45 pm. Students must have gone through security at BHS to get on the bus. If you miss the bus, you cannot attend the prom.

**When arriving at the House of Blues, all students will be searched again by House of Blues security personnel [per venue policy \(click here\)](#).**

**IMPORTANT!** Our After-the-Prom Party will be held at the BHS Tappan Street Gym from 11:00 pm Tuesday, May 30 until 5:00 am on Wednesday, May 31. **Students attending the AtPP are not allowed to go home to change after the prom.**

AtPP is the result of a long-standing collaboration between the PTO, BHS parents, the school, town, and larger high school community. The idea is to help our seniors celebrate their upcoming graduation within a safe, community-sponsored event in an effort to keep our students safe on the most dangerous night of the year for high school students. The parents who organize the AtPP work innumerable hours to make it an enjoyable time for everyone. We hope we have the support of all parents/caregivers to ensure that this important community endeavor continues for years to come.

**All students who attend the Senior Prom must also attend the After-the-Prom Party and stay until at least 3:30 am.** *If there is a medical issue with a student meeting this requirement, the student's parent/caregiver must contact Dean Astrid Allen ([astrid\\_allen@psbma.org](mailto:astrid_allen@psbma.org)) before Friday, May 12 at 3:00 pm.*

**SUBSTANCE ABUSE** – Alcohol and/or substance abuse of any kind at the Prom and the AtPP will not be tolerated. **Any student suspected of being under the influence of alcohol or drugs, or in possession of, will be immediately sent home with their parent/guardian and will be prohibited from participating in all remaining graduation related events, including the graduation ceremony itself.**

## **Brookline High School Graduation**

**Our graduation is scheduled to take place on Sunday, June 4, 2023 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm at Brookline High School on Cypress Field.**

We will provide seats for up to 3 guests per graduate. *Additional guests are welcome but must come with their own chairs/blankets to enjoy the event.* Please be considerate of this limit so that everyone can enjoy this important milestone.

We will make every attempt to have the graduation outside. In light rain, we would stay outside. If there is a window of bad weather expected, we would move the start time of graduation as early as 11am and as late as 4pm. The threat of dangerous winds and/or lightning would move us inside. We will notify you by phone and email on Sunday morning with the plan for such weather contingencies if necessary. **If we are indoors at the Schluntz Gym, the fire department will strictly limit us to the gym's capacity, which means two (2) guests per graduate in the Schluntz gym.** Other family members and friends will be able to watch the event on the B.I.G. live stream.

A professional photographer will take pictures of your graduate as they ascend to the stage, receive congratulations from Head of School, Anthony Meyer, and as they leave the stage with the BHS diploma. You will receive details of this from our photography company, Gradimages, before graduation.

In addition, Brookline Interactive Group (B.I.G.) will provide a live stream of the graduation ceremony in its entirety. This video stream will be available during and after the graduation at: <http://brooklineinteractive.org/live> (click here). Please invite distant relatives to join us in this way. **We ask that family and friends refrain from coming forward during the graduation to take pictures. People will not be allowed to block the aisles or stand in front of seated guests at the ceremony.**

## **Other Important Notes**

We all look forward to these exciting senior events, and of course, we expect responsible behavior from all 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 they have successfully completed all graduation requirements.
2. To participate in the graduation ceremony, each student must have cleared all outstanding hold slips and must purchase a cap & gown to wear at the graduation ceremony.
3. Each student will be required to complete a contract in order to attend the Prom/AtPP. *The Prom is considered a school event. All school rules of conduct apply. Any student found to be in possession of, or suspected of being under the influence of, drugs or alcohol will be required to leave the Prom/AtPP accompanied by a parent/guardian, will be suspended from school (if not a senior), will be suspended from future school related activities including graduation ceremonies.* **Please read the Prom contract carefully with your student.**
4. **Absolutely no Prom tickets or AtPP tickets will be sold at the door** for either the Prom or After-the-Prom Party. *Seniors seeking financial assistance should contact their guidance counselor by Friday, May 5.*

5. **We do not condone any Senior pranks.** In the past, senior pranks have turned malicious and destructive despite our best efforts to work on them with the students, and are therefore not sanctioned. Students who participate in a prank will be subject to BHS school rules, including paying for damages and being excluded from senior events, including the graduation ceremony.

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 month of school may not be allowed to participate in any other school activities, including athletic events, Prom, After-the-Prom Party, Senior Check-Out Day, Scholarship ceremonies and the Graduation ceremony itself.

7. **There is no such thing as Senior skip day or a class trip.** Students who miss a day of school for this reason will receive AWOLs. Students who N-out of a class due to excessive AWOLs or exceed the total absence cap put their graduation at risk.

8. In compliance with Massachusetts law and 603 CMR 23.06(3), Brookline Public Schools will oversee the destruction of all temporary student records five (5) years after those students have left the Brookline school system, due to transfer, graduation or withdrawal. Therefore, please collect your temporary record within five years of leaving the system. The student's permanent record (transcript) is maintained by the school system for sixty (60) years. [See: M.G.L. c. 71, s. 34D; 603 CMR 23.00]

**We are looking forward to a joyous end of the year with our seniors!**

Dean Williams, Dean Redding & Dean Allen