

IMPORTANT SENIOR INFORMATION

Jefferson Seniors and Families,

As we move into April and approach the many culminating events for seniors, we want to communicate important information to you. We want to honor the Class of 2025 in the best way and this letter includes important dates and information about how we plan to do that. Please read this letter carefully, keep it, and refer to it as we move through the spring. We will also continue to post reminders and updates in the Jefferson Journal and on the Jefferson Web Page (jefferson.crschools.us). Just click on the Seniors TAB at the top of the page on the website.

UPCOMING DATES

April

- 26th - Prom
 - 4:00 PM Grand March, JHS Auditorium
 - 7:00-10:00 PM Prom, Eastbank Lounge (97 3rd Ave SE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52401) (Tickets are \$15 and need to be purchased online in Bound. Please see your senior advisory google classroom.)
 - 11:00 PM - 2:30 AM Post Prom, AirFX

May

- 4th - Senior Recognition Ceremony
 - 1:00 PM, JHS East Gymnasium, Seniors arrive at 12:30 PM
- 5th - Senior Assembly
 - 7:30 AM, Seniors report to the West Gymnasium in their gown
 - 7:50 AM, Assembly begins
- 21st - Final Day of Classes for Seniors
 - Last day to turn in CPR requirements for graduation
- 22nd - All Senior financial obligations need to be settled
- 22nd - Rehearsal, seniors will be able to fill out their final transcript requests
 - 1:30 PM - Commencement Rehearsal (cap & gown not worn), Alliant Energy Powerhouse
- 22nd - Commencement
 - 6:00 PM, Doors open to public
 - 6:30 PM, Seniors arrive
 - 7:00 PM, Commencement begins

June

- Mid June - Final transcripts mailed

Academic Progress Toward Graduation

1. Midterm grades will be completed on **March 28**. Parents have a progress report included if their student currently has a D or F in any class. Please check your student's most recent progress report and current grades in Infinite Campus. If teachers and counselors are contacting you, make sure you open all email, US mail, voicemail, etc. Additionally, contact your student's teachers if you sense a problem or are unclear about their grade. Progress reports are emailed weekly during the term. You may also call your child's counselor. In general, counsel your student *against* any letdown in effort or achievement during these last weeks. Attendance in every class is critical!
2. **CPR is required for graduation. If you have not met your CPR requirement for graduation, contact your counselor immediately.**
3. In order for seniors to have their name listed in the graduation program they must be passing the required graduation classes by **Friday, May 2**. Seniors must be passing the required graduation classes after their last day of classes on **Wednesday, May 21** to participate in the ceremony. Seniors that have not met graduation requirements may remain at school until **Tuesday, June 3** to earn their 2025 diploma, but they will not participate in the graduation ceremony.

Senior Recognition

4. Senior Recognition is **Sunday, May 4 at 1:00 p.m.** in the East Gym. Many members of the class will be honored with awards and/or scholarships that evening. An invitation will be sent via email to the parent/guardian of each senior being honored. A list of all students being recognized will also be posted on the Main Office window.

Senior Assembly

5. Senior Assembly is **Monday, May 5th at 7:50 a.m. in the East Gym**. Seniors are to arrive at 7:30 am with their cap, gown, and any medals that they received at Senior Recognition.

Senior Prom

6. Senior class representatives, Jefferson faculty, and the PTSA are excited to announce that Senior Prom is **Saturday, April 26, 2025**. Jefferson seniors are allowed to bring one guest and they must be a Jefferson student or a student outside of Jefferson who is 19 or younger. The only exception will be 20 year olds that are previous Jefferson graduates, who graduated in good standing. All guests who are not Jefferson students **must be approved by the administration team by Thursday, April 17**. If you are bringing a guest who is not a Jefferson student, you must plan to fill out the google form. Student IDs for Jefferson students must be presented at the door. Non-Jefferson students must present a Driver's License or other form of ID at the door. **Students should arrange for transportation at the conclusion of each event, all venues should be cleared within 15 minutes.** The overview of the evening is listed below:

Grand March--Jefferson High School Auditorium

3:30 pm – Students arrive and line-up at Jefferson Auditorium

3:30 pm – Doors are open for family members.

4:00 pm – **Event begins and the Auditorium doors will be closed for the Grand March presentation** – students are announced in front of the crowd in order of their arrival time. Pictures will be taken by Read Photography after students are introduced during Grand March. Doors close and students will no longer be admitted to be announced. Students must arrange transportation and be off campus within 15 minutes of the event ending.

OPEN time (5:00-7:00 pm) for seniors to accommodate Dinner Plans, Family Photos, etc.

Prom--Eastbank Lounge (97 3rd Ave SE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52401) 7:00-10:00 pm – Dance - Students must arrange transportation home within 15 minutes of the event ending.

Post-Prom – AirFX (1100 N 18th Ave, Hiawatha, IA 52233)

10:45 pm – The doors open.

11:00 pm - 2:00 am - Jumping is available

2:30 am – The event ends – Students must arrange for transportation home within 15 minutes of the event ending.

Preparing for Graduation

7. Caps and gowns, in addition to any invitations and announcements that were ordered, will be distributed **as soon as they arrive as they are being shipped at the beginning of April**. They will be handed out in advisory on April 24, 2025. If you have NOT ordered your cap and gown, you must order online at www.highschool.herffjones.com or contact the Herff Jones office at 319-239-3487.
8. Seniors last scheduled day of class is **Wednesday, May 21**. All of the usual attendance requirements are in effect until this day. Please help us assure that seniors are in class each scheduled day. After May 22nd, seniors may stop in to pay a fee or return a book, for example, but they are not to be in the building to visit teachers or to see their friends who are still in school.

Graduation Ceremony

9. **Rehearsal** for the graduation ceremony will be held in the Alliant Energy Powerhouse, formerly known as US Cellular Center, on **Thursday, May 22 at 1:30 pm**. Seniors do NOT need to wear their cap and gown. **THIS PRACTICE EVENT IS REQUIRED.**
10. Commencement is at **7:00 p.m. Thursday, May 22** in the Alliant Energy Powerhouse. The doors open at **6:00 p.m.** and seniors must arrive by **6:30 p.m.**
11. Clothing, including shoes, worn under graduation gowns must be dressy. Generally speaking this means women should wear skirts/slacks and blouses or dresses and men should wear a nice shirt with dress

pants. Denim jeans and athletic shoes are too casual and should not be worn. Graduates must climb stairs to reach and depart the stage so wear appropriate shoes. Corsages should not be worn and purses, cell phones, and cameras must be left with parents or friends prior to the ceremony. Graduates will not carry anything during the ceremony until they are handed their diploma cover on stage. Graduates cannot decorate their cap or gown. Graduates will keep their cap and gown after the ceremony.

12. Seniors will be given their diplomas after the ceremony. More specific directions on picking up one's diploma will be provided at graduation rehearsal.
13. The graduation ceremony is a formal educational event, and graduates have always conducted themselves in a responsible, adult manner. We want this tradition to continue. Please join us in discouraging any activities that would reflect negatively on our graduates and Jefferson High School. No noise makers are to be used as the names are being read; families of those students would not be able to hear the name being called.
14. Family and friends will not be allowed on the event floor before, during, or after the ceremony. A professional photographer will take individual pictures of graduates after they cross the stage. Read Photography will send a letter with the details about purchasing pictures. Also, the commencement ceremony will be televised live on KCRG 9.2 if you want to record it.

Official Transcripts

15. Students who have already applied to a post-high school training program, college, or university have probably requested a preliminary transcript. After all of the graduates' records are completed, the final transcript will be sent as needed upon request of the graduate. Seniors will be able to request final transcripts at graduation rehearsal on **May 22nd**. Admission applications usually will NOT be finalized until this transcript has been received.

Settling Financial Obligations

16. All financial obligations with the school must be settled with the bookkeeper by **Thursday, May 22**. Failure to complete all such obligations will result in the account being referred to a collection agency. In order to avoid this problem, make arrangements with the bookkeeper immediately at 319-558-2435 option 8, if you cannot settle the obligation by **Thursday, May 22**. Money owed to the athletic or music departments, parking tickets, textbooks, library books and fines, and other fees for which your child is responsible—for this and all previous years at Jefferson High school--must be paid by May 22. An updated financial statement for your child will be mailed the **first part of May**. Other financial obligations can occur after the above date such as unreturned books, tickets, etc.

Making Good Decisions

Finally, we offer a note of caution about potentially dangerous activities that may occur at the end of the year. Unfortunately, students are likely to be confronted with very difficult decisions in these next several weeks. There will be parties at hotels, in parks, or at homes where there is no adult supervision. Some of these gatherings may include the use of alcohol or other controlled substances. Making responsible decisions in these situations will be challenging for every young person involved. The school has zero responsibility for such

proceedings, of course, but our faculty members want the best possible end-of-year experience for the members of the Class of 2025. We know that making such decisions is not new to these students—they have been facing similar challenges throughout high school. However, the prom and graduation seasons are unique for many reasons. We do not want car accidents, arrests, suspensions, or other upsetting occurrences to spoil the last weeks of a four-year experience at Jefferson. Therefore, we hope you will talk openly as a family about how you wish to respond to the many possibilities your student may encounter. Make practical decisions in advance that are consistent with your family’s values. We urge care, caution, and communication throughout the prom and graduation season.

Thank you for your continued support of Jefferson High School. Working with your children has been an absolute honor for our faculty and staff. This class has experienced tremendous success and we realize the critical roles that parents and guardians play in those achievements. For that we offer our appreciation and congratulations.

Recap of Important Senior Dates

Saturday, April 26 - Prom, 7:00-11:00 PM
Sunday, May 4 - Senior Recognition, 1:00 PM
Monday, May 5 - Senior Assembly, 7:30 report time
Wednesday, May 21 - Final Day of Classes for Seniors
Wednesday, May 21 - Last day to turn in CPR Graduation Requirement
Thursday, May 22 - Financial obligations settled
Thursday, May 22 - Rehearsal (cap and gown NOT worn)
Thursday, May 22 - Commencement, 6:30 PM arrive
Friday, June 20 (approximately) - Final transcripts mailed