

May 2023

Dear Bengal Families,

Well, you have made it—almost! We are focusing on you because we understand the challenges, both positive and negative, of getting your child this far. You must feel so proud—and exhausted! The senior class sponsors are still working very hard to make the remaining month of your child’s high school career memorable, but we are continuing to face challenges of our own. Our largest battle is communication, so we are asking for your help. Please read the enclosed information carefully because it attempts to answer every question we could imagine a senior or parent having about the end of this special year. Go over this information with your child, so he/she will not miss any of these opportunities or responsibilities. If we have omitted anything, please ask your senior. We have a hard time responding by telephone during the workday. You can contact us more easily by email (pdecker@henry.k12.va.us) (lkjones@henry.k12.va.us)

One area of concern the administrators and senior sponsors wanted to address is audience conduct during the graduation ceremony. We can think of no greater moment for parents than when their children earn recognition for their hard work and perseverance. Yet, so often during the graduation ceremony, audience members yell loudly, ring cowbells, and blow air horns for their special senior. In doing so, the next senior announced and their family, who deserve the same recognition, gets overshadowed by the noise. Often, that child and the family members cannot hear his/her name called at all. Honestly, it just isn’t fair to anyone, nor is it in tune with the overall dignity of this important event. Commencement is both a joyful and a serious ceremony. Everyone in attendance should exercise etiquette appropriate for the occasion and express excitement in ways that will not prevent others from hearing the speakers and from enjoying the moment. The use of air horns and noisemakers is not acceptable. Please encourage your family members and friends who attend graduation to refrain from taking away any of the adulation from the seniors of Bassett High School’s class of 2023.

Another important responsibility concerns the payment of the \$35 senior dues. These dues have helped pay for homecoming activities, movie night, a tailgate party, the senior breakfast, and the picnic—so many fun events. The bulk of the money, however, will pay for the senior gift and the graduation ceremony. Therefore, it is imperative for your senior to pay these dues. Many seniors have been coming to pay, and we thank you as you do this. If you have not yet, we encourage you to pay your dues to help with these upcoming expenses. If you have not paid your dues, you will not be able to participate in the Senior Walk or the Senior Picnic.

The past few years have proven to be a struggle for many of our community’s families, and we would like to help upcoming seniors in any way we can. If your child would be interested in donating his/her cap and gown after graduation, we will collect them following the ceremony. We understand some seniors may want to keep them—especially on that special day, and that is perfectly understandable. But if they simply sit in the closet after graduation, we would love to put it to good use. The school will be open throughout the summer months. You may bring the cap and gown by the main office anytime.

LifeTouch will be taking pictures during the graduation ceremony. They will do an excellent job of capturing the moment your senior receives his/her diploma and shakes Mrs. Gravely’s hand. All orders are handled by LifeTouch, so please do not send orders and money to us. You will not be able to send a photographer to the field during the ceremony.

We hope the rest of your child’s school year is wonderful!

Sincerely,

Laura Jones and Penny Decker
Senior Sponsors

Senior Updates

May 2023

1. **Graduation practice** will occur on Thursday, May 25, beginning at 9:00 a.m. We will focus on end-of-year announcements and a meticulous walk-through of the ceremony process. Plan to meet in the auditorium at 9:00 a.m. for the initial lineup. We will then move to the stadium. We will practice until we get it right—usually until 12:00 p.m. This is a mandatory event. If you are planning to march in the graduation ceremony, you must attend. Ask off from work **RIGHT NOW!**
2. If you do **not** plan to march in the graduation ceremony, please let Mr. Saul and Mrs. Jones know immediately.
3. Currently, we are planning for the graduation ceremony to be outside at the stadium. Any nearby forecast of rain will move the ceremony inside the gymnasium. If the decision is made to bring the ceremony inside, each senior will receive eight tickets for family members and friends who wish to observe from the gymnasium. Spillover seating with a satellite connection for remote viewing will be available in the auditorium on a first-come, first-serve basis.
4. **Handicap parking** will be available at the graduation ceremony. Those family members who cannot use the stadium stairs may sit on the track in reserved seating. In order to have room for all those who need it, only one person may accompany that individual.
5. **Friday, May 26, 7:00 p.m. (But you need to be here A LOT earlier! 5:30!! ☺)**
 - **5:30-** Meet at the Amphitheater for Class Picture **DRESSED AND READY** (if you are not there you will not be in the picture)
 - **5:45-** Move to Auditorium for Mrs. Strayer's Address
 - **6:00-** Begin to Line-up for the Processional
 - **6:45-** March to the Football Field
 - **7:00-** Graduation Ceremony!

Graduation Specifics

- ❖ **Graduation:** Friday, May 26, at 7:00 p.m..
- ❖ Seniors should meet at the amphitheater **no later than 5:30 p.m.**
- ❖ Ladies are wearing blue gowns as well this year, so they are not confined to wearing a certain color outfit under their gowns. Yay! Ladies, please dress nicely; either a dress, skirt/shirt, or dress pants are appropriate. If you are wearing dress pants or a dress/skirt that hangs past the bottom of the gown, make sure your outfit is a solid, neutral color (nothing with a bright color or loud pattern). We are planning on an outside ceremony at the football field, so please think about your shoe choice. Shoes should be dressy and neutral colored (tan, black, white, gold, silver, clear), but spiked heels are not a good option. **Casual flip-flops are NOT appropriate.**
- ❖ Males will wear dark (blue or black) or khaki slacks, dark dress shoes, and a white, collared shirt with the cap and gown. A dark tie is appropriate, but not required.
- ❖ **No sunglasses, cell phones or gum chewing permitted during the ceremony.**
- ❖ No medals, pins, stoles outside of BHS, Governor's School, and PHCC-sanctioned clubs will be worn with caps and gowns.

- The following extra adornments are appropriate:
 - All graduates, except honor graduates, will wear an **orange stole**. These stoles will be distributed at graduation practice and collected after the ceremony.
 - All graduates will wear the multi-colored tassel on their caps.
 - **Honor graduates wear a White stole and Gold tassel.**
 - NHS members will wear a light blue drape.
 - Beta members will wear a medallion.
 - NSBE members have a red tassel.
 - NVTHS and NAHS wear cords.
 - PHCC, Governor's School, and Graduate of Distinction medals **are** allowed.
 - Bengal Tech seniors will wear a cord.
 - Drama Honor students will wear a brown cord
 - FFA students will wear a navy blue and gold cord
- ❖ Any other adornments are not appropriate and will be collected before the ceremony.
- ❖ **Please do not alter your cap or gown from the traditional style. This means no decorations should be worn on your cap and gown.** If you alter your cap and/or gown before or during the ceremony, you will be asked to remove it. If you refuse, you will not be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony. You will need to schedule a meeting with administration the following week to receive your diploma. All graduation caps will be worn properly. The sponsors will help you with that on the day of graduation.

**Senior Picnic
Permission Form**
Tuesday, May 23, 2023

I give my son/daughter

_____ (please print name)
permission to ride the school bus from Bassett High School to Fieldale Ballpark on Tuesday, May 23, 2023. I understand he/she will leave around 10:00 and return around 2:00. In order for my son/daughter to attend this event, I acknowledge and understand the following guidelines implemented to insure the success of the event and the safety of all participants:

- a. Seniors must have paid the \$35 dues.
- b. Seniors will not be allowed under any circumstance to drive to the picnic.
- c. Seniors will not be permitted to leave with anyone (except a parent/guardian receiving prior permission) from the picnic. They will be transported back to school by county school buses.
- d. No outside vehicles will be allowed in the park.
- e. Mrs. Jones or Ms. Decker must receive this permission form by **Friday, May 19**, in order for the senior to attend. **Late submissions will not be accepted without the principal's approval.**
- f. Upon return to BHS, my senior will be dismissed for the day without penalty with parent's permission (identified by signing below).

(parent/guardian signature)

(printed name of parent/guardian)

(student signature)

The Class of 2023 Senior Walk will be held on Monday, May 22nd. Seniors will leave BHS promptly at 9:15 to travel to Fieldale Collinsville Middle School and then to their respective elementary school to celebrate with former teachers and to encourage the younger students. Seniors should bring their caps and gowns to wear on that day (You do not need to dress up). Any senior who has transferred to BHS and did not attend an elementary school here can choose which school to attend. You may have a relative or neighbor at one of the schools.

******Please return this permission form to Mrs. L. Jones in Room 18 by Wednesday, May 17th.******

My senior has permission to ride the bus and attend the 2023 Senior Walk.

Student Name: _____

School chosen for Senior Walk:

- Sanville Elementary
- Campbell Court Elementary
- Stanleytown Elementary
- Carver Elementary
- Meadow View Elementary

Parent Signature: _____



