

Senior Year - Class of 2026 - Checklist

Every high school senior should begin thinking about what they are going to do after graduation. These plans could include attending college, joining the military, entering the work force or becoming certified in a skilled trade. On that note, the high school guidance counseling staff is here to help. Over the next several months, seniors will meet with their counselors in person to discuss plans. Below is a list of things all seniors should keep in mind:

- **Graduation requirements** – 24.5 credits are required to graduate
- **Transcripts** – All transcripts are sent electronically via Parchment. Follow the link below with directions on how to create a Parchment account at <https://youtu.be/w8RhTWXWxa4>. Visit <https://www.parchment.com/u/registration/13746/account> to create an account and request your transcript.
- **College Applications/Tours/Visits** – Now is the time for seniors to apply to colleges if they have not already done so. Please make sure to pay attention to each colleges' specific deadlines. Consider using [Commonapp.org](https://www.commonapp.org). A list of Michigan colleges and their websites can be found here: <https://www.anchorbay.misd.net/schools/high-school/counseling-center/>. Use the College Visits tab to find information on setting up college visits as well as dates for virtual informational meetings for Michigan colleges.
- **FAFSA – Free Application for Federal Student Aid:** (go to www.studentaid.gov to apply)
 - The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) **SHOULD** be available beginning October 1st 2025. If not, please continue checking FAFSA to complete the form.
 - Many colleges/universities require for you to complete FAFSA.
 - If you plan on borrowing money for college from the federal government, the FAFSA must be filled out.
 - **Financial Aid /FAFSA Virtually Workshop Night:**
 - Will be done virtually on September 24, 2025 @ 8pm-9pm.
 - This provides FAFSA step-by-step instructions.
 - This is not a general information night.
 - Both student and parent/guardian **MUST** attend.
 - You must reserve a spot by registering here:
<https://apply.oakland.edu/register/?id=add56f75-1da1-490c-83cc-9374683c515a>
- **Scholarships (local, state, and national):** Scholarships can be found at: www.anchorbay.misd.net/schools/high-school/counseling-center/scholarships/
- **Anchor Bay Community Foundation Scholarships:** available around January 2026 – go to <https://abcf.us/> for more information.
 - Now is the time to ask teachers for letters of recommendation.
 - For national scholarships, you can also use fastweb.com and collegeboard.org.
- **Retaking, Receiving and Sending SAT scores to colleges/universities:**
For more information, go to: <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat>

- **NCAA Student Athletes** – if you plan on playing sports at the NCAA level, make sure you apply at <https://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3/> and make an appointment to see your counselor.
- **Senior Activities coordinator**: If you have questions regarding senior activities, please contact Kristin Anderson at kristinanderson@abs.misd.net.
- **Local Union Hall Information**: For more information on the skilled trades, go to:
 - <https://www.ibewlocal58.org/> - Electrical
 - <http://www.smw80jac.org/> - Sheet metal
 - <https://ualocal98.com/> - Plumbers
 - <https://www.hammer9.com> - Carpenters and Millwrights
- **Military Information** – for all branches of the military, please visit: <https://www.defense.gov/Our-Story/Our-Forces/>
- **Anchor Bay High School Counselor information**:

Name	Alphabet	Grade	Email/Extension
Mrs. Adams	9 th Grade	9 th	aadams@abs.misd.net/ext.2336
Ms. Gano	A-E, MORE-PION	10 th -12 th	jgano@abs.misd.net/ext.2349
Mrs. Spoerl	F-MORA	10 th -12 th	jspoerl@abs.misd.net/ext.2334
Ms. Barczak	PIOT-Z	10 th -12 th	sbarczak@abs.misd.net/ext.2337
Mrs. DiStefano	Special Ed. TC	10 th -12 th	adistefano@abs.misd.net/ext.2335
Mrs. Smafield	Special Ed. TC	9 th	csmafield@abs.misd.net/ext.2340

Tentative Dates for Seniors:

- Wednesday, January 31, 2026: Cap & Gown Order Deadline
- Saturday, May 9, 2026: Senior Prom @ Zuccaro's
- Tuesday, May 19, 2025: Wednesday, May 20, 2025: Senior Exams
- Wednesday, May 20, 2026: Senior Sunset @ Tars Stadium
- Thursday, May 21, 2026: Senior Final Walk @ ABHS

Senior All-Night Party @ Dave & Busters
- Thursday, May 28, 2026 (Tentative): Graduation Night @ Tars Stadium

June 1, 2025: Rain Date Graduation Night