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HURON

Class Flower — Tiger Lilly Class Colors — Orange, Black & White Class Motto — "In the middle of every difficulty lies opportunity." – Albert Einstein

The 138th commencement exercises at Huron High School will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday, May 19, at Huron Arena.

Guest speaker will be Mitch Gaffer, Huron High School teacher and head coach for speech and debate.

Student speakers will be Marisol Dubon, senior class president; Antony Sorto, senior class vice president; Ya Tha, senior class treasurer, and Hamtyn Heinz, senior class secretary.

The Concert Band, Concert Choir and Madrigals will perform.

Diplomas will be presented by Garret Bischoff and Mike Radke.

Students graduating with highest honors are Kayeleigh Bowden, Jolie Carrillo, Tage Carrillo, Marisol Dubon, Aristeo Escobar-Salanic, Holden Hegg, Hamtyn Heinz, Ireland Hennrich, Hkee Hser, Lah Ker Paw Htoo, Conner Johnsen, Sean Meyers, Gavin Moeding, Gabriel Montoya, Beauty

Moon, Paw Eh Mu, Eh Lee Paw, Kelsey Schuchhardt, Makenzie Siemonsma, Lah Doh Soe, Antony Sorto, Saw Ah Thaw and Aiden Zavesky.

Graduating with high honors are Grady Bott, Kaiden Caudell, Chasety Christensen, Chloe Culver, Carsen Evans, Kmui Htoo, Okay Htoo, William Knippling, Jackson Mattke, Kolton Ogle, Keysha Osorio-Zaragoza, Blake Peskey, Jayda Peterson, Tatum Peterson, Tyson Pfitzer, Jackson Reno, Paw Baw Shae and Samantha Swanson.

Graduating with honors are Benjamin Ahlers, Peyton Bischoff, Cameron Cutshaw, Eastyn Eichstadt, Carson Gainey Jr., Elizabeth Heinen, Sawyer Hennrich, Miles Hofer, Roger Htoo, Kristina Johnson, Olaf Kruse, Landon Marshall, Dah Christ Moo, Kuh Ner Moo, Jaylee Noyes, Kmui Paw, Moo Say Paw, Omar Perez-Miranda, Bleh Ler Say, Ni Kei Blut Shee, Aye Thwe and Hser Wah.



Benjamin Ahlers Action Realty



Diego Aldrich Huron Eye Clinic



Jaya Anderson Iverson Auto



Marina
Araiza-Salgado
Red Wilk
Construction



Peyton Bischoff Bauman Agency



Marie Bobeldyke Plainsman



Brianna Borah Muth Electric



Grady Bott Farmers & Merchants Bank

"What lies behind you and what lies in front of you, pales in comparison to what lies inside of you."

— Ralph Waldo Emerson



Bowden
Farmers &
Merchants Bank



Benton Brown Payday



Ethan Busch
Dakotaland
Federal Credit
Union



Jomarys Comacho Cruz Plainsman

PLAINSMAN



Jolie Carrillo Huron Clinic



Tage Carrillo Huron Clinic



Delaney Cass WW Tire



Cashton Caudell Montgomery Agency



Kaiden Caudell Montgomery Agency



Priyanshu Chaudhari Plainsman



Chasety Christensen M-O Federal Credit Union



DaJai ClaggettDakota Provisions



Mackenzie Copeland Huron Clinic



Corona Payday



Chloe Culver Iverson Auto



Cameron Cutshaw Action Realty



Leeam Davis Jensen Livestock



Zander Davis
Huron Regional
Medical Center



ylan Dorn Payday



Marisol Dubon
Plainsman

"There are far, far better things ahead than any we leave behind." — C.S. Lewis



Khyannin Eagle Star Huron Eye Clinic



Eastyn Eichstad Farm Credit Services of America



Genifer Escobar Payday



Escobar Salanic Plainsman



M-O Federal Credit Union



Kieara Field M-O Federal Credit Union



Ethan Fetzer Payday



Plainsman

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Olivia Fowler-Ewolhin Red Wilk Construction



Huron Housing & Redevelopment



Carson Gainey Jr. Iverson Auto



Katelyn Gascoigne Huron Clinic



Tessa Gogolin Center for Independence



Jaelyn Hamilton Ace Realty



Paycee Head StoneyBrook Suites



Holden Hegg M-O Federal Credit Union

"It takes courage to grow up and become who you really are." -E.E. Cummings



Say Heh Payday



Plainsman



Hamtyn Heinz Payday



Dakota Provisions



Sawyer Hennrich **Dakota Provisions**



Hershman M-O Federal Credit Union



Ezra Hiles Blue, Wheeler & Banks



Christen Hoek Huron Clinic



Miles Hofer Jensen Livestock



Hkee Hser Plainsman



Aung Aung Htoo Payday



Kmui Htoo Plainsman



Lah Ker Paw Htoo Payday



Naw Htoo Barton's Heating & Cooling



Okay Htoo Huron Clinic



Roger Htoo Plainsman

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Way Htun Pavdav



M-O Federal Credit Union



Kristina Johnson Huron Regional **Medical Center**



Bay Klay Plainsman



Nick Kleinsasser Bauman Agency



William **Knippling** Red Wilk Construction



Olaf Kruse M-O Federal Credit Union



Ya Tha Na Kyaw Center for Independence



Tiffany Lawler Payday



Kaiden Lee Iverson Auto



Mariela **Lopez Ramirez** Plainsman



Breanna Ludemann Payday



Kaylee Luepke Dakotaland Federal Credit Union



Adrian Maldonado **Marguez** Plainsman



Haley Mandel Payday



Clareen Mangiemai Plainsman

"You already have everything you need inside of you right now, today." — Alicia Keys



Landon Marshall Farm Credit Services of America



Huron Regional **Medical Center**



Fernando Martinez **Fernandez** Payday



Jensen Livestock



McDermaid Plainsman



Montgomery Agency



StoneyBrook Suites



Ulises Ministro Payday

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Jack Mitchell M-O Federal Credit Union



Gavin Moeding Iverson Auto



Gabriel Montoya Burnison Plumbing & Heating



Dah Christ Moo Plainsman



Hai Ku Moo Payday



Kuh Ner Moo Red Wilk Construction



Beauty Moon Huron Eye Clinic



Keilin Morales Plainsman

"Be the change that you wish to see in the world." — Arleen Lorrance



Paw Eh Mu Payday



Pierce & Harris Engineering



Estar Ner Plainsman



Payday



Iverson Auto



Ethan Olson Iverson Auto



Soe Myint Oo Plainsman



Tatiana Orellana Payday



Keysha Osorio-Zaragoza Plainsman



Owen Payday



Plainsman



Payday



Eh Lee Paw Plainsman



Hsa LawEh Paw Payday



Htee Hser Paw Plainsman



Red Wilk Construction

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Moo Say Paw Payday



Plainsman



Sydnee Paye-Severance Kuhler Funeral Home



Omar Perez-Miranda Payday



Blake Peskey Jensen Livestock



Jayda Peterson Dakotaland Federal Credit Union



Tatum Peterson Dakota Provisions



Tyson Pfitzer **Avail Wealth** Management



Alexis Priest Pierce & Harris Engineering



Puterbaugh Iverson Auto



Ani Ramirez **Bartolon** Plainsman



Farmers & Merchants Bank



Joe Rangel Payday



Remington NTA Trucking



Jackson Reno Center for Independence

"If you want something you've never had, you must be willing to do something you've never done." - Thomas Jefferson



Kaitlynn Richwalski Payday



Plainsman



Payday



Bleh Ler Say Plainsman



Eh Nay Say Payday



Jake Scheer Plainsman



Peyton Schock Center for Independence



Kelsey Schuchhardt Ace Realty

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Ashley Sederstrom Center for Independence



Paw Baw Shae Center for Independence



Joey Lucas Sharry Payday



Gav Shee Plaisnman



Merry Shee Pavdav



Ni Kei Blut Shee Plainsman



Haydon Shurson Payday



Siemonsma Dakotaland Federal Credit Union

"Success is not the key to happiness. Happiness is the key to success. If you love what you are doing, you will be successful."

Albert Schweitzer



Lah Doh Soe Payday



Soe Plainsman



Antony Sorto Payday



Ella Stanfield Plainsman



Center for Independence



Saw Ah Thaw Plainsman



Payday



Red Wilk Construction



Burnison Plumbing & Heating



Farm Credit Services of America



Zayne Winson Montgomery Agency



Naw Htoo Ywe **Plainsman**



Farmers & Merchants Bank

To the Class of 2024 . . .

raduating is an exciting — and stressful — time. You're moving on to a completely new chapter in your life! And for the class of 2024, that's a big deal.

After all, this cohort spent years navigat-

ing a global pandemic, riding the waves of uncertainty in lockdown and euphoria when restrictions lifted. They've had to deal with distance learning, remote internships, canceled study abroad plans and the seemingly endless stream of video calls, not to mention an uncertain economic outlook and job market.

Class of 2024, you've survived a lot. Now it's time to dive into adulthood, which is terrifying, thrilling, frustrating and fun in equal measure.

Words of Wisdom from Dr. Seuss . . .

"Things are never quite as scary when you've got a best friend."

"You're off to great places!
Today is your day! Your
mountain is waiting, So
get on your way!"

"Congratulations!
Today is your day!"

"You have to be odd to be Number One."

"Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened."

"You'll be on your way up! You'll be seeing great sights! You'll join the high fliers who soar to high heights."

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Jackson Peck **Krogstad**

Maggie Decker

Natalie Hamilton

Rhayonna Hood

JAMES VALLEY CHRISTIAN

ommencement exercises for James Valley Christian School will be at 3 p.m. Sunday, May 12, in the school auditorium.

Commencement speaker will be Dr. Jesse Fast.

Graduating with high honors are Ethan Bartholow, Elijah Bishop, Na-

talie Hamilton, Rhavonna Hood, Jackson Peck, Mya Thielbar and Jacev Wipf

Regent Scholars are Ethan Bartholow, Emma Decker, Natalie Hamilton, Rhayonna Hood and Mya Thielbar











Class Motto: "In the end it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years." — Abraham Lincoln

Class Flower: White Dahlia

Class Verse: "Don't let anvone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity" (1 Timothy 4:12).

Class Colors: Gold and Black

Sponsored by:

Agtegra Kuhler Funeral Home Mid Dakota Rural Water Huron Clinic Dakotaland Federal Credit Union Center for Independence American Family Insurance

"If I must give any of you advice it would be say yes. Say yes, and create your own destiny." — Maya Rudolph

PLAINSMAN



Thomas Aughenbaugh





Bullock-Bachelle



Britt Carlson



Kadvn Fast



Calliana Fields



River Hornia



DE SMET SCHOOL

C tudents at De Smet School will Ograduate at 2 p.m. Saturday, May 11, at the De Smet Dog Pound.

Valedictorian is George Jensen, and salutatorian is Thomas Aughen-

Graduating with high academic honors are Thomas Aughenbaugh, Kadyn Fast, Emily Jennings, George Jensen and Connor Johnson.

Graduating with academic honors are Sophia Barr, Willem Lim, Tristan Olson, Wyatt Rigge, Trace Van Regenmorter and Edger Wilkinson.



George Jensen



Connor Johnson





Class Motto: We did it, we're seniors! Class Flower: Tulip Class Colors: Royal Blue and Normal White







Wyatt Rigge



Van Regenmorter



Edger Wilkinson

"What you get by achieving your goals is not as important as what you become by achieving your goals." -Zig Ziglar

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DOLAND

Students at Doland School will receive their diplomas during graduation exercises at 2 p.m. Sunday, May 26, in the HHH Auditorium.

Class Colors — Navy Blue and Burnt Orange Class Flower — Pink Roselily Class Quote — "Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it." - Ferris Bueller



Jodyn Bawek



Patrick Decker



Joseph Heiman



Cameron Noethlich



Jadyn Schneider

Sponsored by: Agtegra



Michael Schultz



Mason Tschetter



Weinreis

HIGHMORE-HARROLD

Seniors at Highmore-Harrold School will graduate at 2 p.m. Sunday, May 19, at the Hyde County Memorial Auditorium.

Graduating with highest honors are valedictorian Carson Stephenson and salutatorian Reghan Westcott.

Graduating with high honors are Trake Cowan, Kenidy Effling

Class Motto — You don't realize the chapter you are living until it's the very last time you get to live in it.

Class Colors — Red, Black, White Class Flower — Red Rose

No photos are available Graduates will include the following:

Isabella Ahrenholz
Mattea Alger
Payton Beare
Kendall Cermak
Trake Cowan
Kenidey Effling
April Fallis

Kaelin Faulstich Korin Fawcett Ryder Rowland Carson Stephenson Cooper Wangsness Riley Werdel Reghan Westcott

Sponsored by:

Agtegra
Mid Dakota Rural Water
Borah Excavation and Septic
American Family Insurance

PLAINSMAN



Presley Binger



Frankenstein



Rachel Huizenga



HITCHCOCK-TULARE

C tudents at Hitchcock-Tulare School will receive their diplomas during Ograduation exercises at 2 p.m. Saturday, May 11, in the Hitchcock-Tulare High School gymnasium in Tulare.

Valedictorian is Cambree McNeil and salutatorian is Harlee Nielson.

Graduating with high honors are Brooklyn Frankenstein, Karter Miller, Rachel Huizenga, Harlee Nielson, Kylee Martin, Brendan Nowell, Cambree Mc-Neil and Erik Salmen

Graduating with honors are Presley Binger and Weston Wagner.



Kylee Martin



Maynard



Cambree McNeil



Karter Miller



Harlee Nielson

Class Quote — "Chase your dreams, but always know the road that'll lead you home again." — TimMcGraw

> **Class Flower** — White Rose with Red Tips

> Class Colors — Red, White and Blue



Brendan Nowell



Damon Ross



Erik Salmen



Carlie Selting



Weston Wagner

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Mid Dakota Rural Water Borah Excavation & Septic Kuhler Funeral Home McGillvrey Heating & Cooling LLC Huron Regional Medical Center



Kale Wanner





Woodward

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IROQUOIS

Troquois School will graduate 10 seniors on Satur-Lday, May 18, at 2 p.m. at the high school. Honor students are: Rebecca Bich, Satoya Myers and Rosalie Wehlander.

Class Motto — Chase your dreams, but always know the road that will lead you home again. **Class flower** — White carnation tipped in lavender



Rebecca Bich



Kyle Burmeister





Nathan Enninga



Deion Harris

Sponsored by: Agtegra, Muth Electric,

Dakota Provisions, American Family Insurance



Riley Hiles



McDermott



Satoya Myers



Isabella Suedmeier



Wehlander

MILLER

raduation exercises at Miller High School will begin at 2 p.m. Saturday, May 18, at the Miller Armory.

Class Motto — "Somtimes you will never value a moment until it becomes a memory" - Dr. Seuss **Class Colors** — Green and White Class Flower — White Rose dipped in green



Shaylee **Anderberg**



Treyton Anson



Joanlei Baker



Campbell-Sterud



Paton Coyle



Keaton Dyer





Laura Evans





Hagan Fritzsche



Colby Harrel



Maya Howard



Alexis Johnson

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Poindexter

Miller School continues . . .

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Kaleb Sarchet



Schumacher



Braeden Seidel



lan Speck







VanDerWerff



Landon Wagner



Tanner Wallman

"Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you have imagined."

- Henry David Thoreau

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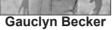
REDFIELD

Graduation exercises at Redfield High School will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, May 11, at the Kenneth Greeno Physical Education Building in Redfield.

Speakers will be class members Grady Fey and Elijah Morrissette.

Class Motto — "I'm not here for a long time, I'm here for a good time." – George Strait
Class Flower — White Peony Class Colors — Gold and White





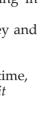




Emerie Binger



Lilly Blume





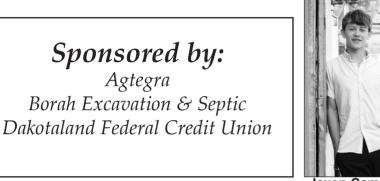
Ruthie Croeni



Seth Domke



Devin Fliehe











Jakobe Hvam



Evan Jaton



Isaac **Fortin-Schwartz**



Chase Frericks



Jude George





Carmen Herrera





Chase **McGillivary**



Jersey Morrison



Elijah Morrissette



Tristen O'Daniel





Melakye Paulsen



PLAINSMAN



Allie Applegarth



Bitterman



Brock Edwards



Jared Edwards

SANBORN CENTRAL

Canborn Central High School will Shold its 2024 graduation at 4 p.m. Saturday, May 11, in the Sanborn Central Gymnasium in Forestburg.

Valedictorian is Kara Wormstadt and salutatorian is Aubrey Senska.

Other honor students are Allie Applegarth, Isabella Bitterman, Keaton Fridley, Cooper Goldammer, Carter Hitchcock and Trey Moody.

Speakers will be David Steele and Susan Farrell-Poncelet.

Class Quote — "We didn't know we were making memories. We just knew we were having fun." — Winnie the Pooh

Class Colors — Gray and Royal Blue

Class Flowers — Blue Tipped White Rose & Blue Gerbera Daisy

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Agtegra,

Huron Clinic,

Home Instead Senior Care



Keaton Fridley



Cooper Goldammer



Carter Hitchcock



Trey Moody



Aubrey Senska



Cody Slykhuis



Attley Tarbox



Kara Wormstadt



Justin Ratigan



Ian Reinbold



Tyler Roberts



Kaitlyn Rozell



Dalton Sattler



Cameron Scalf



Kayden Schmidt



Kadi Schnabel



Kevin Weller







Alex Wren



Redfield School continues . . .



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ESSINGTON SPRINGS

Seniors at Wessington Springs High School will receive their diplomas during graduation exercises at 3 p.m. Saturday, May 18, at the Wessington Springs Elementary gymnasium.

Guest speaker will be Tom Glanzer.

Valedictorian is Avery Orth and salutatorian is Haeleigh

Class Motto — "We were here for a long time, but it was a good time!" **Class Flower** — White Rose Class Colors — Royal Blue, Navy, White, and Gold



Agtegra Huron Clinic American Family Insurance



Garett Anson





Wynand Bothma



Fagerhaug





Gaikowski



Alyssa Grohs



Maverick Jones





Abigail Kolousek





Blake Larson



Haeleigh Mulder



Avery Orth



Kordell Schaefer



Carissa Scheel



Caroline Witte

"Go into the world and do well. But more importantly, go into the world and do good." — Minor Myers, Jr.

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Rudy Ek









Emma Nichols

Emma Peterson

Seniors at Willow Lake High School will receive their diplomas at graduation beginning at 2 p.m. Sunday, May 12, in the Willow Lake Auditorium.

Guest speaker will be Lukas Anderson, Willow Lake High School science teacher.

Valedictorian is Emma Peterson and salutatorian is Jalen Hohm.

Other honor students are Shelby Anderson, Macy Bochek, Rudy Ek, Ryder Juntunen, Emma Nichols, James Poppen, Callia Thalacker and Haylee Tormanen.

Class Colors — Arctic Blue, Black, and Silver Class Flower — Light Pink Dahlia Class Motto — "We're Still Learning To Be Human." – song lyric by Cody Johnson

Sponsored by:

Agtegra









Villasenor

James Poppen

Callia **Thalacker**

Tormanen

"Success is often the result of taking a misstep in the right direction." — Al Bernstein

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WOLSEY-WESSINGTON

raduation exercises at Wolsey-Wessington High School will Jbe held at 2 p.m. Saturday, May 18, in the Wolsey-Wessington School gymnasium in Wolsey.

Guest speaker will be Jason Bishop.

Valedictorian is Lainey Uttecht and salutatorian is Kelsie Rob-

Other honor students are Tierney Breen, Kailynn Dorris, Tate French, Kate Hamilton, Payton Kemnitz, Kelsie Roberts, Grant Timm, Shelby Timm and Lainey Uttecht.

Class Motto: "Lear from yesterday, live for today, and dream for tomorrow."

Class Colors: Black and Gold

Class Flower: White Carnation









Abigail Davis

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McGillvrey Heating & Cooling LLC Agtegra Dakota Environmental Kuhler Funeral Home Borah Excavation & Septic Mid Dakota Rural Water Muth Electric Huron Clinic Center for Indepenence American Family Insurance Huron Regional Medical Center 281 Travel Center



Degret



Sadie French







Rachel Lloyd



Payton Kemnitz



Riley Mills



Levi Olson



Ty Olson





Edwyn Reyes









Shelby Timm



Lainey Uttecht



Kade Vanbuskirk

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Destiny Alameda



Selena Alameda



Ryan Aldrich



Jaycee Baruth

WOONSOCKET

Seniors at Woonsocket High School will receive their diplomas during graduation exercises at 7 p.m. Friday, May 10, in the Woonsocket Auditori-

Speakers will be valedictorians Jaycee Baruth, Isaiah Schultz and Rain Swenson.

Class Song — "If This is the Last Time" *LANY* Class Quote — "All of our dreams can come true if you have the courage to pursue them" — Walt Disney

Class Flowers — Spray Roses Class Colors — Red, Black, White



Jeffery Boschee



Taja Brooks



Lane Burkel

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Huron Clinic Dakotaland Federal Credit Union Dakota Provisions Home Instead Senior Care



Carter Christian



Bryson Eden



Damon Froke



Jerrit Kokesh



Chase Linn



Allison Nedved



Kamryn Ochsner



Kennadie **Ochsner**



Emily Overson



Peterson-Patient





Jaslyn Swearingen



Rain Swenson



Evan VonEye

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7 gift ideas for the graduate

It would be an understatement to say that it has been an interesting few years for the Class of 2024. Due to the pandemic, many soon-to-be grads spent a significant portion of their school years adapting to a changing landscape, both at school and at home. While it is an accomplishment to reach graduation in a "normal" situation, students who have succeeded and thrived in the face of pandemic-related adversity are worthy of extra celebration.

Graduation gifts are a great way to show grads how proud you are that they stayed the course in the face of significant challenges. Here are seven gift ideas for graduates.

1. Journal: Graduates are about to start new chapters in their lives. Either a blank journal or one with writing prompts can help grads get their thoughts on paper to document the many moments that will shape the next few years.

2. Mascot- or school-themed offerings: If a high school graduate will be going on to higher education, then visit the college or university's spirit shop to purchase anything from sweatshirts to blankets to coffee mugs featuring a school logo or mascot. On the first day of classes, the new student will already feel part of the team.

3. New wardrobe: Graduating means forging new paths, whether in a career or through additional schooling. Grads can look the part with several items from a favorite retailer. Those who are unsure of the graduate's style can purchase a gift card and let the grad go on a spending spree.

4. Framed school photo or map: A piece of artwork can evoke strong emotions of time spent on

campus. Frame a black-and-white or sepia-tone print of the aerial view of campus, or opt for an official school tour map, which indicates buildings and other points of interest. This could become a cher-

ished keepsake.

5. Bedside organizational pouch: Dorm life requires maximizing a small amount of space. An organizational pouch or pocket can keep essentials



such as a tablet, book, reading glasses, and remote control close by and organized without taking up a lot of room. Some are designed to rest over a couch cushion or slide between a mattress and bed frame.

6. Automotive essentials: Graduates will be facing all sorts of new expenses, so easing any sort of financial burden can help them in a big way. Vehicles tend to be major financial drains for teens and young adults. Prepaid cash cards, gas station gift cards, vouchers for car washes, and even gift cards to an automotive supply store can help graduates direct their funds elsewhere.

7. Personal coffeemaker: Many people feel coffee is essential to make it through the day. Graduates who will soon be studying for college exams or those waking up early for their first forays into the workforce may appreciate an on-demand pickme-up. Coffeemakers are much more streamlined these days, and there are pots designed to use loose grounds or special pods to produce cups quickly.

Shoppers can explore many interesting options to commemorate the accomplishments of the class of 2024.

"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams." — Eleanor Roosevelt

Tips to ace college entry exams

Because most colleges and universities require applicants to submit ACT or SAT results as part of admissions consideration, prepping for the test itself can be a critical component of that process.

While it can oftentimes be hard to deal with the anxiety that comes with a rigorous test meant to show your mastery of certain subjects and concepts, such as reading and mathematics, consider these test prep tips to help boost your score while simultaneously lowering stress.

Register Early: To allow yourself as much flexibility as possible, taking college entrance exams during your junior year of high school is encouraged. If you don't get an ideal score, you can refine your approach and retake the exam with a better idea of what to expect.

Take a Practice Test: Any test prep plan should start with a practice SAT or ACT exam. Taking practice tests under realistic conditions can help you gain a better understanding of the content of the test, improve your time management and help combat test anxiety. You can use your practice test as a baseline to set goals and focus the rest of your prep on areas you would like to improve before the real thing.

Sign Up for a Prep Course: If you find studying on your own difficult or not as successful as you'd hoped, a prep course can put you through the paces and hold you accountable. Complete with homework and in-class practice, prep classes can range from small groups to larger classes taught by test experts. Some school districts even offer after-school programs dedicated to ACT or SAT prep.

Gather Supplies: To help reduce test day stress, gather everything you'll need the night before. Check the list of banned items - cellphones aren't permitted - to make sure you don't accidentally bring something you're not allowed to have. Ensure your bag is packed with your admission ticket, valid photo identification, several sharpened pencils with erasers, an approved calculator (with fresh batteries) and a watch, if allowed.

Get a Good Night's Sleep and Eat Breakfast

While it can be tempting to stay up late the night before the test to cram, you're likely to perform better with a full night's sleep. Sleep is important for retention, and eating a balanced breakfast before heading out the door can aid in your ability to focus. To make your morning easier, prep breakfast before bed to keep an early morning from starting even earlier.

Remember, the college admissions process involves more than just test scores. Visit eLivingtoday.com for more education tips and information.

Source: eLivingtoday.com

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Get schooled on vocational training

righ school graduates or individuals looking to explore continuing education at any age have various options. Among the most popular options is enrolling in a college or university. Studying a trade in a vocational school is another popular option.

Vocational schools are sometimes referred to as career or trade schools. Vocational schools tend to offer certificate programs that are much shorter in duration than traditional college degree programs, and train students for skilled jobs. Vocational programs prepare individuals for careers in electrical work, hairstyling and cosmetology, certified nursing aids, automotive work, and HVAC services, among others.

Cost of education is an important factor when choosing a career, and the cost of vocational school is no exception. The College Board says trade school costs between \$5,000 and \$15,000 on average for a threeto 18-month program. By comparison, the national average for a two-year degree program at public and private colleges can range from \$3,621 to \$15,333 per year. The cost to attend a four-year college is considerably higher, though it varies widely by institution.

NerdWallet reports that, as of 2021, total student loan debt in the United States exceeded \$1.61 trillion. Vocational school can be a much more affordable option than attending college, without the specter of large amounts of debt looming once the training is over.

Many higher education concentrations are confronting low enrollment, while vocational programs are doing quite well, according to The Hechinger Report, which covers innovation and equality in education. The reason may be that vocational training presents a clear career path, and a more secure way to a solid job. Mechanic and repair trade programs had an enrollment increase of 11.5 percent from spring 2021 to 2022, indicates the National Student Clearinghouse.

"America is lending money it doesn't have to kids who can't pay it back to train them for jobs that no longer exist," says Mike Rowe, television personality and founder of the Mike Rowe Works Foundation, which offers scholarship money to those who are pursuing the trades. Rowe feels that America has convinced people that the best path for most people is an expensive education. Meanwhile, the Bureau of Labor Statistics indicates there are more than seven million jobs available across the U.S. that do not require a four-year-degree.

Advantages to vocational schools

Trade school students can look forward to some benefits.

- hands-on learning
- more rigid schedule
- efficient time usage
- faster class pace
- small class sizes
- ability for licensure, where needed
- lower costs of attendance compared to other types of schooling
- instructors who are experts in their fields

Vocational schools are an option for students right out of high school or those returning to school later in life. Such schools provide access to millions of rewarding and lucrative jobs that can offer financial security.



Popular graduation traditions

raduation is steeped in tradition. Come the day of graduation, many grads-to-be might be focusing on receiving their diplomas and then celebrating after the ceremony. The hard work students put in affords them every right to celebrate once they're officially anointed as new grads, but before the party begins it can be fun to reflect on the many traditions associated with graduation ceremonies.

Cap and gown

Graduation ceremonies simply wouldn't be the same without caps and gowns. The tradition is anything but new, as Columbia University notes caps and gowns have been linked to academia since the 12th century. Back then, students wore gowns and hoods to emulate the clergy who taught them, but also to stay warm. Many universities dressed their scholars in gowns from the 1700s onward. In 1786, one school, Brown University, even mandated that degree candidates be clad in flowing robes and caps at commencement ceremonies. Though educators and students may no longer wear caps and gowns when attending class or around campus, the tradition of doing so at commencement ceremonies has endured.

Tassel turning

The tradition of turning the tassel does not have the lengthy history of the cap and gown, dating back only decades rather than centuries. Graduates typically turn the tassels after everyone has received their degrees during the ceremony. The turn is symbolic of their transition from student to graduate. Tassels start on

the right for high school students and college undergraduates and are then turned to the left, while recipients of master's degrees and doctorates keep their tassels on the left throughout the commencement ceremonies.

Tossing caps in the air

The tossing of graduation caps in the air is believed to date back more than 100 years. Prior to 1912, graduates of the United States Naval Academy had to serve as midshipmen for two years before they were commissioned as officers. As a result, they still needed their graduation caps. But beginning with the class of 1912, graduates were automatically commissioned as officers, so they no longer needed their hats. That led the graduates to throw them in the air, thus beginning one of the more fun and photo-worthy graduation traditions.

"Pomp and Circumstance"

This tradition marked by the playing of "Pomp and Circumstance" is rooted in the work of William Shakespeare, which makes it seem like a perfect fit for graduation ceremonies. Sir Edward Elgar composed "Pomp and Circumstance" in 1901 and the title for the song was inspired by a line in the bard's "Othello." Elgar received an honorary degree from Yale University in 1905, and during that ceremony "Pomp and Circumstance" was played. The song apparently made a strong impression, as it soon began to be played at various commencement ceremonies, a tradition that continues today.

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