



April 15, 2024

Dear Class of 2024 Parents and Guardians,

Seniors are getting closer to graduation and all of the exciting end-of-year activities. This letter provides an overview of key dates this spring; we will share more updates about specific events as we move through the next two months. We ask families to review all of this information with their senior student, including the important reminder about staying focused all the way to the finish line.

Save the Dates:

- **Senior Roundtables: April 12 and May 31.** Seniors are doing portfolio presentations on these two mornings to an audience of 11th and 12th grade classmates and a faculty panel. Parent participation is also welcome and deepens the experience. Thank you to the parents and family members who were able to attend their student's presentation on April 12, and we look forward to seeing more of you on May 31.
- **Day Trip to Boston: May 22.** Seniors will take a trip to Boston to enjoy attractions including a Duck Boat Tour, the Aquarium, and Faneuil Hall. Seniors and their advisors are finalizing details of the itinerary. The bus will leave TA at approximately 8:15am and return around 7pm.
- **Senior Prom: May 31.** Prom will take place the evening of Friday, May 31, at **Ohana Family Camp**, in Fairlee, VT. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m., followed by dancing. Fundraising is ongoing, and a final ticket price will be determined when all funds are in. We encourage all seniors to attend - everyone is welcome, with or without a guest.
- **Baccalaureate: June 9, 7p.m.** This evening tradition is a time of reflection as well as celebration, featuring songs and speeches. The event is for seniors and their families. Baccalaureate will take place in the Martha Jane Rich Theater at TA. (Mandatory event practice for students on June 6 and 7.)
- **Senior Class Day & Awards Assembly: June 14.** This is the final school day for students, featuring assembly events for much of the morning. First there will be an awards celebration for grades 7-11, from 8:30-9:30 a.m. Then, the **Senior Class Day** program will begin. The Class of 2024 will present a class skit, slide show, and "last will and testaments;" followed by an awards ceremony, with a range of accolades in academics, arts, athletics, and other areas.
- **Graduation: June 14.** Graduation will be held on Friday, June 14, at 6:30 p.m. The ceremony is planned for the front lawn of the Academy. If weather requires a move indoors, we will be in the Vaughan Alumni Gymnasium. There will be a reception for families following graduation. (Mandatory event practice on June 12, 13, 14.)

After April break, we will discuss with seniors the requirements for participation in commencement exercises. One of the key messages will be to help them understand that participating in the end of year activities is a privilege, and all students have a responsibility to continue to follow school rules and academic expectations through the end of the year. We want our seniors to “keep their eyes on the prize” and ensure that every member of the class participates in these important culminating experiences.

*Below is an excerpt from the first section of the **Student and Family Handbook** as a reminder for students and parents/guardians:*

Diploma Requirements

Students must earn a minimum of 26 credits for graduation and demonstrate proficiency in Thetford Academy’s school-wide transferable skills through a portfolio presentation. Refer to the TA Course Guide for credit requirement details or the Counseling Office with questions about required courses.

Commencement Ceremonies Requirements

Participation in commencement ceremonies requires that a student be in good standing. Good standing reflects responsible participation in the school community. This includes acting in accordance with rules and expectations, as well as meeting all financial and material obligations to the Academy. At Commencement time, if a student is not in good standing, they will not participate in Commencement activities, including Baccalaureate and graduation exercises.

Good Standing Expectations

- Student has completed all diploma requirements.
- Student is not on disciplinary probation status.
- All school debts, materials, uniforms, etc. have been paid or returned.
- Student has fulfilled all attendance requirements at baccalaureate and graduation rehearsals.
- Student has behaved appropriately through the final days of senior year.

Best wishes to all our students and families during this exciting season of milestones for members of the Thetford Academy Class of 2024!

Sincerely,

Carrie Brennan
Head of School

Siobhan Lopez
Dean of Students