



*Graduation ~ Sandia Class of 2026

*All events subject to change pending NM and APS direction.

Dear Class of 2026 Graduating Seniors,

Please read all the following important information and please join the Senior Google Classroom code: byh5egik to stay current and receive updates of Senior events from the Activities Office!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS Mark your calendars! *And...PLEASE - Be on time for ALL events!!!*

Senior Parking Lot Painting: Saturday, August 9, 2025 @ Senior Lot **enter through tech lot gate with required paperwork*

Senior Sunrise & Group Picture: Saturday, August 15, 2025 6:00 a.m. @ SHS Soccer Field

Cap & Gown Senior Meeting: Monday, August 18, 2025 during Advisory in Main Gym

Senior Saturday Ordering Event: September 13 @ Campus Specialties

Senior Class Picture: Monday, November 17, 2025 morning before Advisory in Main Gym

White Cap Ordering: December 1-December 12, 2025 @ Activities Office

Senior Picture deadline to principal for slideshow: Friday, May 1, 2026 *email to: gonzales_cam@aps.edu

Cap & Gown & Senior Sign Distribution: Tuesday, May 12, 2026 3-5 p.m. @ Room B-9/Commons

**all seniors must attend this and present the "ALL CLEAR slip*

Grad Walk: May 14 or 15, 2026 **Morning event at elementary and middle schools/Limited space/sign-ups in April 2026*

Wear your red cap or decorated white cap and gown and awards!

Senior Sunset: Friday, May 15, 2026 6:00 p.m. @ SHS baseball field

Mandatory Assembly Rehearsal: Tuesday, May 19, 2026 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. @ SHS Main Gym

**Students only/no parents required/casual clothes*

Mandatory Senior Robing Assembly: Tuesday, May 19, 2026 6:00 p.m. @ SHS Main Gym

**Nice clothing, red cap or decorated white cap and gown and awards!*

(Seniors arrive in Commons by 5:00 p.m.)

Mandatory Graduation Rehearsal: Wednesday, May 20, 2026 11:30 a.m.- 1 p.m. @ SHS Main Gym

**Students only/no parents required/casual clothes*

NOTE: *If you DO NOT attend the Senior Rehearsals & Assembly, you will NOT have a seat at Graduation.*

Graduation: Thursday, May 21, 2026 6:30 p.m. @ Tingley Coliseum

Seniors must arrive by 4:15 p.m.

*NOTE: *There is a \$5.00 parking fee at the fairgrounds. Students, please enter through Gate 8*

Textbook return:

•Seniors are responsible for returning books/computers directly to the bookroom.

Fines:

•It is your responsibility to clear all fines prior to picking up your cap and gown. Cap and gown will **NOT** be issued if you are carrying any fines.

Non-Participating Seniors:

•Those not participating in the commencement ceremony may pick up their diploma in the registrar's office starting on Tuesday, May 26, 2026.

Expected/Required Dress for Senior Assembly and Graduation:



- ✓ Dress, Skirt, or Dress Pants -any color: dresses and skirts not longer than “tea-length”.
- ✓ Light colored (white preferred) dress shirt and Tie
- ✓ Dark Slacks (black preferred) **NO JEANS!**
- ✓ Dark dress shoes or dress boots with hard sole; A sensible walking heel is advised.
- ✓ **NO ATHLETIC SHOES or Flip-Flops!**

Senior Assembly (Academic Stole/Robing Ceremony)

This exercise will be done during the Senior Assembly. Each senior/graduate will have **one** significant person of his or her choosing (an important adult in your life) seated in his or her chair on the gym floor. The significant person should place the cap & gown on the senior and then leave the gym floor. **The person that will present your cap & gown must be in the gym, sitting in your chair BY 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 19, 2026.** Family Seating will be available in the bleachers. **You may wear your white “decorated” cap at this event!*

Correct Graduation Ceremony Cap & Gown Attire:

Red Gown with Blue Stole (worn with longer portion down the back), Red “mortarboard” cap (worn flat on head, parallel to the floor-NOT on back on head), and tassel. Gowns must be zipped up during graduation ceremony.

Please do not alter the red cap or gown. No decorations, adornments, or slogans of any type are allowed on cap or gown, including but not limited to flowers, leis, buttons, balloons, signs, sayings, decals, stickers, etc.

ONLY APS approved academic honor cords or senior awards are allowed to be worn with the cap and gown.

What NOT to bring to Graduation:

ALL seniors will be “screened” as they enter Tingley Coliseum. **No bags, purses, cameras, cell phones, food, drinks, beach balls, inflatable items, etc.** are allowed past the “Student Entrance”. Please be prepared to secure all items (especially cell phones) outside of Tingley Coliseum. Please leave these items secure with family member or guest. **Do not bring them in!** All graduates planning on participating in the graduation ceremony will be required to open (unzip) gown, walk through a metal detector, and prove that no unauthorized items are being brought into Tingley Coliseum. Please understand any seniors carrying any unauthorized items will be turned away at the entrance.

Frequently asked questions about Graduation:

“Where do I order my cap & gown?”

Campus Specialties. They are located at 1529 Eubank Blvd. NE ~ Suite B. #505-275-9357

They are the official vendor selected by Sandia High School and A.P.S. to provide graduation announcements and caps & gowns to our graduates. Correct school colors are selected and used. Orders need to be completed now to ensure proper sizing. All 2026 graduates who plan to borrow a cap & gown may only borrow from 2014-2025 graduates because of color/material used. If you borrow a cap & gown, you will still need to purchase a 2026 tassel and turn in your All-Clear slip at the senior sign distribution.

“Do I need tickets for guests to attend graduation?”

There are **NO** tickets required to attend graduation at Tingley Coliseum. Seats are on a first come, first served basis. Doors will open to the public at 5:30 p.m. All guests and spectators will enter through metal detectors.

“Who takes the professional graduation pictures?”

The company is Grad Images. They are a national company. They will email you proofs sometime after graduation if you turn in the required “photo card” to the Activities Office before May 20, 2026.

“Isn’t it my right to attend the graduation ceremony?”

Actually, no. Albuquerque Public Schools is only responsible for making sure you have met the minimum requirements determined by the State of New Mexico needed to graduate. Once those requirements have been met, you will receive your diploma and records will indicate that you have successfully graduated.

We look forward to a wonderful celebration and successful Graduation with the Class of 2026!

Please address any further questions to: Ann Holmes, Activities Director 294-1511 x 30009

holmes_a@aps.edu

