



**WALTER PANAS
HIGH SCHOOL**

Joseph M. Spero
Principal

Donna Bolner
Assistant Principal

Marlene Gracia
Assistant Principal

May 2018

To the Families of Our Prospective Graduates:

With the prom and graduation rapidly approaching, we would like to take this opportunity to provide you with specific information relative to these most important events. Please read the information carefully and be sure to contact the school at your earliest convenience if you have questions or concerns regarding any part of this letter.

Our intentions are to insure that all of our students finish their relationship with Walter Panas High School in good health and with positive memories. Your cooperation and assistance in this effort will be greatly appreciated as we prepare appropriate celebrations for the **CLASS OF 2018**.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Sincerely,

Joseph M. Spero
Principal

Donna Bolner
Assistant Principal

Marlene Gracia
Assistant Principal

DISTRIBUTION OF YEARBOOKS

JUNE 1, 2018

Distribution of yearbooks will take place on **June 1, 2018** in Café at **8:00 a.m.**

SEMINARS / SENIOR PICNIC

JUNE 1, 2018

On Friday, June 1, students should arrive by **8:00 a.m.** and report to the Panther Café. During periods 3 and 4, the seniors will attend senior seminar courses and workshops. In order to attend the senior picnic, **STUDENTS MUST ATTEND ALL SEMINARS AND/OR WORKSHOPS AS ATTENDANCE WILL BE TAKEN.** After period 4, all seniors are to report to the PAC for a presentation. Upon completion of the presentation, the senior class will attend a luncheon, co-sponsored by the Panas Parents Club, and will continue on to the outdoor area adjacent to the PAC for their senior picnic.

Students not wishing to attend this function are expected to follow school district policies for attendance.

SENIOR WALK

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6, 2018

This year, we are adding a new experience for our seniors as well as our elementary students, faculty and staff, known as the "Senior Walk." In an effort to reconnect our students with their roots, all seniors will be invited to visit their elementary schools on **Wednesday, June 6th**. All participants will be transported at **9:30 a.m.** to their former elementary school, where they will be greeted by their former teachers and current students as they walk the building to celebrate their upcoming graduation. We expect the activity to last for 30-40 minutes, when students will be brought back to Panas to resume their day. Participation in the event is strongly encouraged but not required.

GRADUATION REHEARSAL

JUNE 20, 2018

Rehearsal: Rehearsal will be held on **Wednesday, June 20th from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.** in the cafeteria. **It is imperative that you arrive on time.** If transportation to school is a problem, please call the school **before Wednesday, June 20th.** **Students who do not attend the rehearsal will not be allowed to walk in the graduation.**

Cap and Gown: Distribution of cap and gowns will take place at rehearsal on **Wednesday, June 20th in the cafeteria.** If you have not already purchased a cap and gown, the price is **\$35.25, plus shipping.** Please go to **JOSTENS.com** to order your gown ASAP. The cap and gown does not need to be returned after the ceremony, it's yours to keep.

SENIOR PROM

THURSDAY, JUNE 21, 2018

The Senior Prom will be held from **6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.** at Glen Island Harbour Club, New Rochelle, N.Y. Prom bids may be purchased from the Senior Class advisors, Ms. Callahan and Mrs. Elmouchtari, at a cost of \$105.00 per person. A photo booth will be available for those who wish to have pictures taken. These pictures are included in the \$105.00.

Please be advised that any one student or group of students who arrives at the prom after **7:00 p.m.** will not be admitted. Arrangements for limousines, etc. should be made to coincide with this time. Any student or group of students who leaves the prom before **11:00 p.m.** will not be permitted to return. Also, the usual rules regarding access to vehicles during the prom will be observed. Due to this fact, be advised that all vehicles may be subject to search by the administration and/or members of law enforcement.

Please remember that the Senior Prom is a **school event**. No smoking (including electronic cigarettes or tobacco products) will be allowed on the grounds or in the building of the Glen Island Harbour Club by anyone, student or adult. As such, no student will be admitted who is either under the influence or in possession of alcohol or other controlled substances. **Students who involve themselves with alcohol/drugs in any way will be subject to school disciplinary action, including immediate notification to parents, not being permitted to remain at the prom, and forfeiture of the privilege of participating in the graduation exercises. Participants are subject to five (5) days out-of-school suspension and referral to the Superintendent of Schools. Also, no after prom bags of any type or description will be permitted inside the premises of the prom venue. Changing into after prom clothing is not permitted inside the prom venue.**

Adults are reminded of the significant civil liabilities associated with serving alcohol to minors and the recent changes in law making possession of alcohol by a minor illegal. Help us to keep this night sober, enjoyable and memorable for all students. Any student not admitted to the prom because of possession/use of alcohol or other controlled substances will be sent home with their parents or law enforcement.

SENIOR PROM CONTRACT

There must be a Senior Prom Contract, signed by the student and parent, for all students who attend the prom. Read the contract carefully and complete all the required information. Prom bids are being sold during 8th period (except Thursdays) AND every day after school in room 204 through June 7, 2018. **Any bids received May 21st – June 7th must be paid by CASH ONLY. No tickets will be sold after June 7, 2018.**

COMMENCEMENT - CLASS OF 2018

JUNE 23, 2018

The Graduation Ceremony is a joyous time of celebration and recognition of many years of achievement. As such, it is a time to be shared with family, friends, classmates, and the teachers and staff members who have helped bring students to this occasion. The ceremony is marked with dignity and tradition and requires conduct appropriate to the occasion. Please note the following information:

Commencement: Saturday, June 23rd. The ceremony will be held at the Westchester County Center, White Plains and will begin at **2:00 p.m.** Plan to arrive at the Westchester County Center no later than **1:00 p.m.** Enter the building through the main door. Parents may go directly into the auditorium. Students should report immediately to the basement area where they will change into caps and gowns. Parents are not permitted downstairs. **Do not bring anything of value. Leave all valuables, including purses, with parents.** No security is provided for valuables.

Commencement Tickets: Admission is by ticket only. **Each graduate will be given 4 tickets with their cap & gown distribution.** If you need additional tickets, email **panasseniors@lakelandschools.org** with your request. Provide the amount of extra tickets, your child's name and mailing address. All requested tickets will be mailed home. Students may **not** pick them up. Please make sure that your guests understand our expectations for a dignified ceremony. Remember, no one will be admitted without a ticket.

Student Dress: In keeping with the dignity of the graduation ceremony, proper attire will be expected for boys and girls: Slacks, shirts and ties for boys; dresses or skirts or dress slacks for girls. No cut-offs, shorts, sneakers, flip-flops or other inappropriate attire will be permitted.

Safeguarding Valuables: Do not leave purses, cameras, or other valuables or personal items unattended at any time in the Westchester County Center during the ceremony.

Student Conduct: Participation in the graduation ceremony demands that all students conduct themselves in a manner that brings honor to the students, their school and their families. While this is clearly a joyous occasion, we expect mature and respectful behavior throughout the ceremony. Your cooperation will be appreciated.

Photographs: A professional photographer will be present to take individual color photographs of all graduates as they receive their diplomas. **Proofs of these photographs will be emailed or mailed directly to your home during the summer.** If you are taking your own pictures, please do not obstruct the view of others or approach the stage area directly.

Reminder: Graduation from high school occurs only once in your life. Most of you have spent four years earning your diploma. The administration and faculty have worked very hard to make your graduation a memorable experience. Any disrespectful behavior or disruption of the ceremony will result in offending many of your classmates and their families, as the ceremonial proceedings will be halted to restore order.

Therefore:

1. Be at rehearsal and know your assigned place.
2. Respect your classmates during the ceremony.
3. Dress appropriately.
4. **Decorating caps strictly prohibited. If you do, you may forfeit your ability to participate in the ceremony.**
5. Boys should wear ties, long pants, socks and shoes. NO SNEAKERS, SHORTS, FLIP-FLOPS OR SANDALS.
6. Girls should wear dresses, skirts or slacks. NO SNEAKERS OR FLIP-FLOPS.
7. Beach balls, balloons, bubbles and other distractions are not funny. They are blatant acts of disrespect and do not belong at a dignified ceremony. Do not bring anything like this. Violators will be removed and not permitted further participation.

Diplomas: All diplomas will be mailed within a couple of weeks after graduation. If there are any items owed to the school (i.e., books, calculators, uniforms, honor cords, etc.), these items must be returned before diplomas are mailed.