

Wyomissing Area Jr. / Sr. High School

Class of 2024

**101st Annual Commencement Ceremony
Handbook**

~For Seniors and their Families~

**"We know what we are,
but not what we may be."**

- William Shakespeare

Wyomissing Area Jr./Sr. High School Class of 2024

Dear Class of 2024 and Parents/Guardians of seniors,

This is it – we are down to the home stretch! Commencement is on the horizon, and there is much to do before **May 31, 2024**. Hopefully, this "Senior Packet" will give you all the information you will need to enjoy this final phase of your experience here at Wyomissing Area Jr./Sr. High School.

Please take the time to read the details enclosed in this handbook.

If you have any questions after reading this packet, do not hesitate to contact us by email or phone: pbeck@wyoarea.org (610-374-0739 x2413); jreardon@wyoarea.org (610-374-0739 x2450).

It has been a pleasure working with the Class of 2024, and we are looking forward to all of the exciting end-of-year events! We wish the graduating seniors and their families all of the best.

Sincerely,

Mr. Pete Beck and Mrs. Jodi Reardon
Senior Class Advisors

**An Important reminder to all seniors and their parents/guardians from
Mr. Beck, Mrs. Reardon, and Dr. Jones about Commencement rehearsals:**

Dear members of the Class of 2024 and their families,

The commencement ceremony for Wyomissing Area Jr. / Sr. High School has been a district tradition since 1924. The order of events, the color and style of the gowns, and the expectations for our graduating classes have remained unchanged for 100 commencement ceremonies. The expectations for the Class of 2024 also remain unchanged. To put it simply, it is extremely important that each member of the Class attend each commencement rehearsal so that the commencement ceremony may be enjoyable for all participants. ***Excused absences must be pre-approved directly with Dr. Jones. Failure to provide an excuse for a missed rehearsal will result in exclusion from participation in commencement activities; no exceptions.***

We would also like to take this opportunity to remind the Class of 2024, and their parents/guardians, about the commencement ceremony dress code. Girls will be expected to wear skirts, dresses, or appropriate pants and blouses. Boys will be expected to wear dress shoes, khakis or dress pants, dress shirts, and preferably a tie. Failure to meet these expectations will result in the forfeiture of your participation in commencement. If a student cannot meet these dress expectations due to an economic hardship, they must contact Dr. Jones, Mrs. Reardon, Mr. Beck, or their Guidance Counselor by 3:00 PM on Friday, May 10th. It is important to understand that the commencement ceremony is a solemn occasion that marks the end of one chapter of a student's life, and the beginning of another, while forever binding them as a group. To treat this occasion as a frivolous event would be a disservice to the Class of 2024 and the past graduating classes of Wyomissing Area High School.

Attending commencement is a privilege that is earned through hard work and dedication. Each student has to prove that they have earned this privilege, the same as their classmates have.

We expect that each member of the Class of 2024 will attend each rehearsal for the commencement ceremony, exceed the expectations explained in this letter, and enjoy this final high school experience. In doing so they will be able to stand honorably with the Wyomissing High School, West Reading High School, and Wyomissing Area High School classes that have preceded them.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr. Corey Jones
Principal, Jr./Sr. High School


Mr. Pete Beck
Co-Advisor, Class of 2024

Mrs. Jodi Reardon
Co-Advisor, Class of 2024

Senior Calendar

Monday May 13, 2024	Tuesday May 14, 2024	Wednesday May 15, 2024	Thursday May 16, 2024	Friday May 17, 2024
Normal Schedule Gifted Fair Presentation 6:00 PM Library	Normal Schedule SH Spring Concert 7:00 PM Auditorium	Normal Schedule District Art Show	Normal Schedule District Art Show	All Senior Obligations should be resolved Normal Schedule *Last Day BCTC & classes for Seniors* *Last Senior HR for attendance*

Monday May 20, 2024	Tuesday May 21, 2024	Wednesday May 22, 2024	Thursday May 23, 2024	Friday May 24, 2024
8:05 - 1:00 WAEF Senior Day * schedule on the following page* 1:10 - 2:35 Senior Academic Awards Auditorium (recipients only) Tentative 6:00 PM Auditorium WAEF Scholarship & Distinguished Alumni Ceremony	8:05 - 11:30 Senior Exams Library 6:00 PM All Sports Awards Auditorium Senior iPad Collection Lib IT Office	8:05 - 11:30 Senior Exams Library *Signing Day* 3:00 PM Senior iPad Collection Lib IT Office	8:05 - 11:30 Senior Exams Library Full Commencement Rehearsal Extra ticket sign up 1:10-2:35 (Auditorium) Senior iPad Collection Lib IT Office	8:05 - 11:30 Senior Exam Make-ups Library Senior iPad Collection Lib IT Office

Monday May 27, 2024	Tuesday May 28, 2024	Wednesday May 29, 2024	Thursday May 30, 2024	Friday May 31, 2024
 Memorial Day No School	8:05 - 11:30 Senior Exam Make-ups Library 11:30 Senior Video Auditorium 1:10 - 2:35 Commencement Rehearsal, Tickets (Auditorium)	1:54 - 2:35 Commencement Rehearsal Speakers Only (Auditorium) 6:30 - 7:30 Spartan Impact Awards	1:10 - 2:35 Commencement Rehearsal (Scottish Rite Cathedral) 6:30 (6:15) Baccalaureate @ Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom	6:30 (5:30) Commencement Scottish Rite Cathedral *student report time 5:30 PM Doors open to guests @ 5:30 pm

Class of 2024

Senior Day Schedule

All events on Senior Day are senior-only events

Monday, May 20, 2024

8:00am – Senior Breakfast ~ Cafeteria

8:30am to 8:45am – cap and gown Distribution ~ New Gym

- Seniors dress in cap and gown for class photos

8:45am to 9:30am – Class of 2024 Photos

- Seniors will be arranged by Mr. Marabella in the New Gym
- Seniors will be given time for photos with friends, etc.
- Seniors will remain in their caps and gowns
- Seniors will wear the name tag provided

9:30am – Seniors will board buses and will be transported to WHEC for a Grad Walk through the building

9:45 - 10:15am – Seniors on the WHEC Grad Walk

10:30am – Seniors will board buses for transportation to WREC

10:45am to 11:15am – Seniors on the WREC Grad Walk

11:15am to 11:30am – Seniors will board buses for transportation to WAHS

11:30am – Seniors will repack and store caps and gowns

11:30am to 12:45pm - Senior lunch, candids and lawn games on the front lawn

12:45pm to 1:00pm – Change for Sr. Academic Awards, return to Auditorium

1:00pm to 2:35pm – Sr. Academic Awards Ceremony (award recipients only)

Obligations

Obligations should be taken care of immediately to avoid any delay in receiving your Commencement tickets or your diploma. Please fulfill your obligations to the following people:

Cafeteria - Mrs. Hohl

Library - Mrs. Balatgek or Mrs. Caruso

Athletics - Mrs. Stern

Parking tags - Mrs. Duquette

Technology obligations – Technology Staff, Library IT Office

Senior iPad Collection 2023-24

- All seniors may start turning in their iPads and all accessories beginning the week of May 20th.
- IT Staff will be in the IT Support Office in the Library receive all items.
- Items include:
 - 9th Generation iPad: (\$294)
 - Logitech Keyboard/Case: (\$99)
 - Cases must have stickers removed. Cases with stickers will not be accepted.
 - 20W USB-C Power Adapter: (\$15)
 - USB-C to Lightning Charging Cable: (\$15)
- All items must either be turned in or paid for in order to be cleared of any iPad obligations.
- Please make sure all iPads are fully charged when turning in items.
- Device Passcode **MUST** be reset to 0000.

All other obligations - Mrs. Jones (Attendance Office)

**All obligations must be paid by check or money order (payable to WASD).
*We will not be able to accept cash payments.***

Please make sure your obligations are met on or before Friday, May 17th. Please note that while you will be allowed to participate in the commencement ceremony, you will not receive your commencement tickets or diploma until your outstanding obligations are satisfied.

Class of 2024

Commencement Rehearsal Schedule

**Bussing will be available to and from all rehearsals
for any seniors who sign up in advance.*

Thursday, May 23 – 1:10 to 2:35 p.m. (AUDITORIUM)

- This is a full rehearsal for all graduating seniors.
- There will be a sign-up sheet at this rehearsal if students would like to be on the list to receive any available extra graduation tickets.

Tuesday, May 28 – 1:10 to 2:35 p.m. (AUDITORIUM)

- This is a full rehearsal for all graduating seniors.
- Tickets will be distributed at this rehearsal *if your fines and obligations are satisfied*

Wednesday, May 29 – 1:54 to 2:35 p.m. (AUDITORIUM)

- This rehearsal is for ***SPEAKERS ONLY***.

Thursday, May 30 – 1:10 to 2:35 p.m. (SCOTTISH RITE CATHEDRAL)

- This is a full rehearsal for all graduates.
- Processional rehearsal for Baccalaureate will also take place at this rehearsal.

**ALL REHEARSALS ARE MANDATORY IN ORDER TO
PARTICIPATE IN THE COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY**

A time to reflect...

BACCALAUREATE

Date: Thursday, May 30, 2024
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Place: Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom
555 Warwick Drive
Wyomissing, PA 19610

*Seniors who are participating should please arrive by 6:15 p.m.

*Young men are asked to wear shirts, ties, pants, dress shoes, and commencement gowns (no caps).

*Young ladies are asked to dress nicely, wear dress shoes, and commencement gowns (no caps).

WHAT IS BACCALAUREATE?

Baccalaureate is a traditional ceremony that is held the night before commencement. It is a multi-denominational service that includes music and spiritual leaders from our community. Students join family and friends to give thanks for all of the blessings that have been bestowed upon them. It is simply one final time before commencement for the students to be together and celebrate as a group, so we encourage all seniors to participate. Attendance is not mandatory. Estimated length of the service is one hour.

Wyomissing Area Jr. / Sr. High School
Commencement
Class of 2024

Date of Commencement: Friday, May 31, 2024

Time of Commencement: 6:30 p.m. sharp

Location of Commencement: Scottish Rite Cathedral
310 S. 7th Avenue
West Reading, PA 19611

REMINDERS

*Graduates will not receive their tickets or diplomas if obligations remain unpaid, or if their behavior during the commencement rehearsals and/or ceremony is deemed inappropriate by the administration of WAHS.

*Each graduate will receive **6 tickets** for the ceremony. There will be a sign-up sheet at the 1st rehearsal (5/23) for students who would like additional tickets. There will be a limited number of extra tickets available. Additional tickets will be evenly distributed among all who request them. Mr. Beck and Mrs. Reardon will distribute all tickets at the second commencement rehearsal (5/28).

*Graduates are to arrive at the SRC Cafeteria no later than 5:30 p.m.

* Dress Code: Girls: Dresses, skirts, or dress pants and a blouse
 Boys: Khakis or dress pants, dress shirts, dress shoes and preferably a tie

~No Jeans - No Sneakers - No Shorts~

*After the commencement ceremony, graduates are to keep their gowns, but must report to the SRC cafeteria to receive their actual diplomas.

*At the conclusion of the ceremony, students will process from the SRC Auditorium to the SRC cafeteria to get their graduate packets. Once they have received their packet, they can return to the Auditorium to meet with their families. ***We ask that the audience remain in the auditorium until the graduates return.***

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT COMMENCEMENT

- Q. What do we do if we need more than 6 tickets for the commencement ceremony?**
A. First, ask friends if they have extras. There are a limited number of extra tickets, which will be shared evenly with those who request them. To sign up for extra tickets, students should see **Mr. Beck or Mrs. Reardon at the first commencement rehearsal**. Tickets will be evenly distributed among those who signed up for additional tickets at the first rehearsal.
- Q. If my child signs up for extra tickets, is it guaranteed that we will receive the number of tickets he/she requested?**
A. No.
- Q. If a senior loses his/her commencement tickets, will the tickets be replaced?**
A. No; there will be no additional tickets available so please keep your tickets in a safe place.
- Q. Where should we park for the commencement ceremony?**
A. Parking is available in the following places: the parking lots adjacent to the venue, Campus Road, Parkside Drive North, South Park Road and the Reading Public Museum parking lot on Parkside Drive South.
- Q. What type of seating will be available for spectators at commencement?**
A. The Scottish Rite Cathedral is essentially a large auditorium, with left, center and right sectioned Orchestra and Balcony seating.
- Q. What if special seating for a handicapped individual is needed?**
A. If you need handicapped accessible seating for the commencement ceremony, please call Mrs. Janice Duquette (610-374-0739, ext. 2132) by 2:00 p.m. Tuesday, May 28th. A reserved seat will be available for the handicapped individual plus one family member. The seats will not be designated by name. The reserved seats will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Q. Should we iron the commencement gown?**
A. To make the gown look nice and neat for this special event, we suggest you iron the gown on the LOW HEAT setting only, or hang the gown on a hanger in the bathroom. Steam from the shower will soften the wrinkles and no ironing may be needed.
- Q. May graduates keep the gown, cap and tassel?**
A. Yes.
- Q. Why will seniors return to the SRC Cafeteria after the ceremony?**
A. Upon returning to the SRC Cafeteria, graduates will be subject to a final check of any financial obligations before the distribution of diplomas.
- Q. Are all commencement rehearsals mandatory?**
A. Yes. All seniors must take part in all of the commencement rehearsals. The entire event is choreographed so that everything flows smoothly with a sense of dignity that should mark such an occasion. Attendance will be taken at each rehearsal. Dr. Jones reserves the right to exclude any senior from the commencement ceremony for not attending a rehearsal. All absences must be pre-approved by Dr. Jones. ***Commencement rehearsal is open only to graduating seniors and WAHS staff directly involved in the commencement ceremony.***

Q. Who should my child see to satisfy obligations?

- A. Library obligations ~ see Mrs. Balatgek or Mrs. Caruso
Cafeteria obligations ~ see Mrs. Hohl in the Cafeteria
Athletic obligations ~ see Mrs. Stern in the Athletic Office
Technology obligations ~ see Technology Staff, Lobby Concession Stand.
Parking tags ~ should be given to Mrs. Duquette in the Principal's office
All other obligations ~ see Mrs. Jones, Attendance Office
All payments must be made by check or money order, payable to WASD (*No cash*).

Q. Can we take pictures during the ceremony?

- A. You are welcome to take pictures, however ***flash photography is strictly prohibited*** as it will temporarily blind the graduates and speakers. If you would like to pose for pictures before the ceremony, the grounds of the adjacent Reading Public Museum should provide an excellent location. Graduates will be available for pictures at the conclusion of the ceremony, but please keep in mind they must return to the Scottish Rite cafeteria to receive their diplomas.

Points of Interest

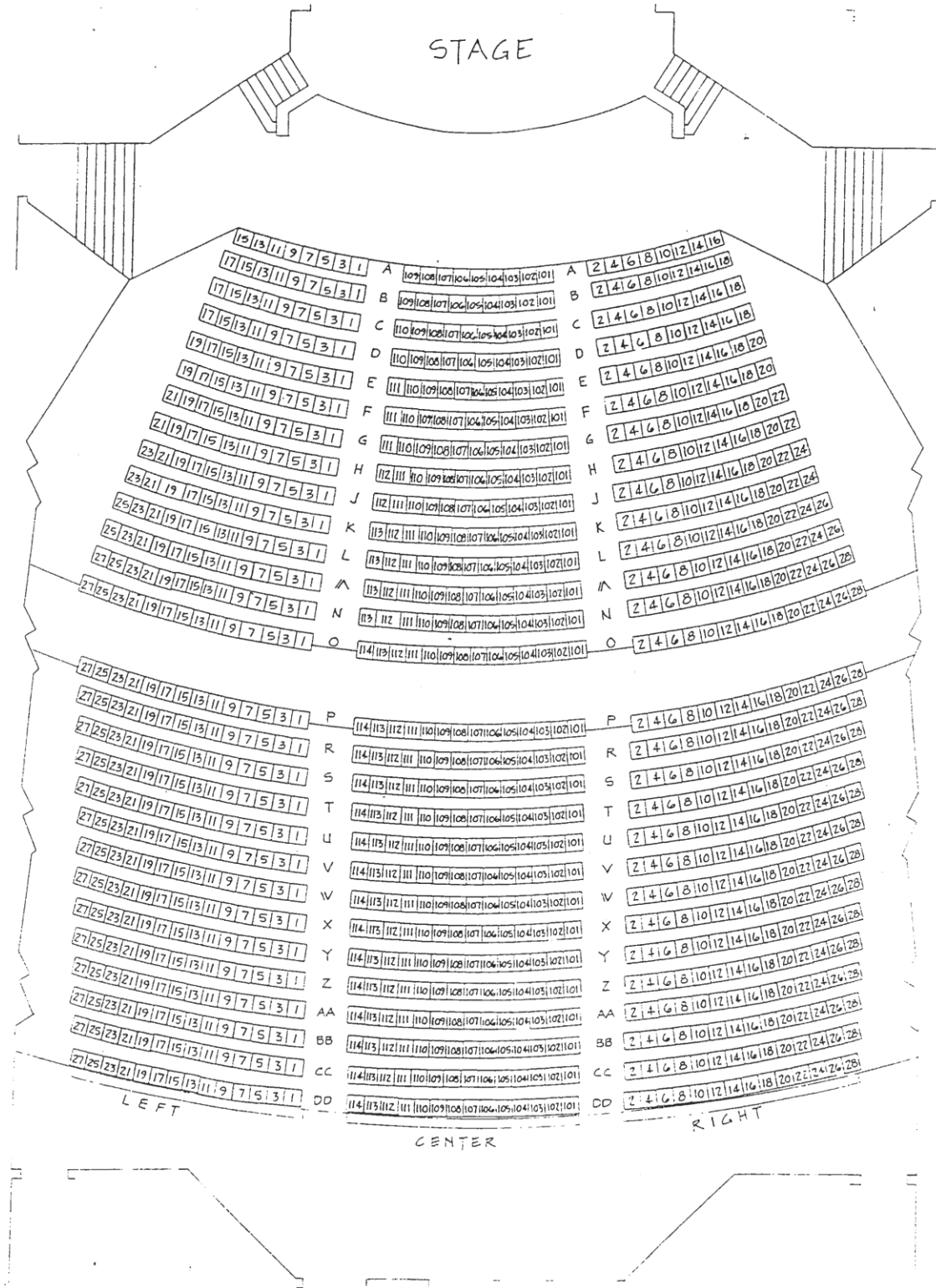
The Yearbook:

The *Colophon* will be distributed to the Class of 2024 as soon as it becomes available. If you have any questions related to the *Colophon*, please contact our yearbook advisor, Mr. Pete Beck, pbeck@woyarea.org.

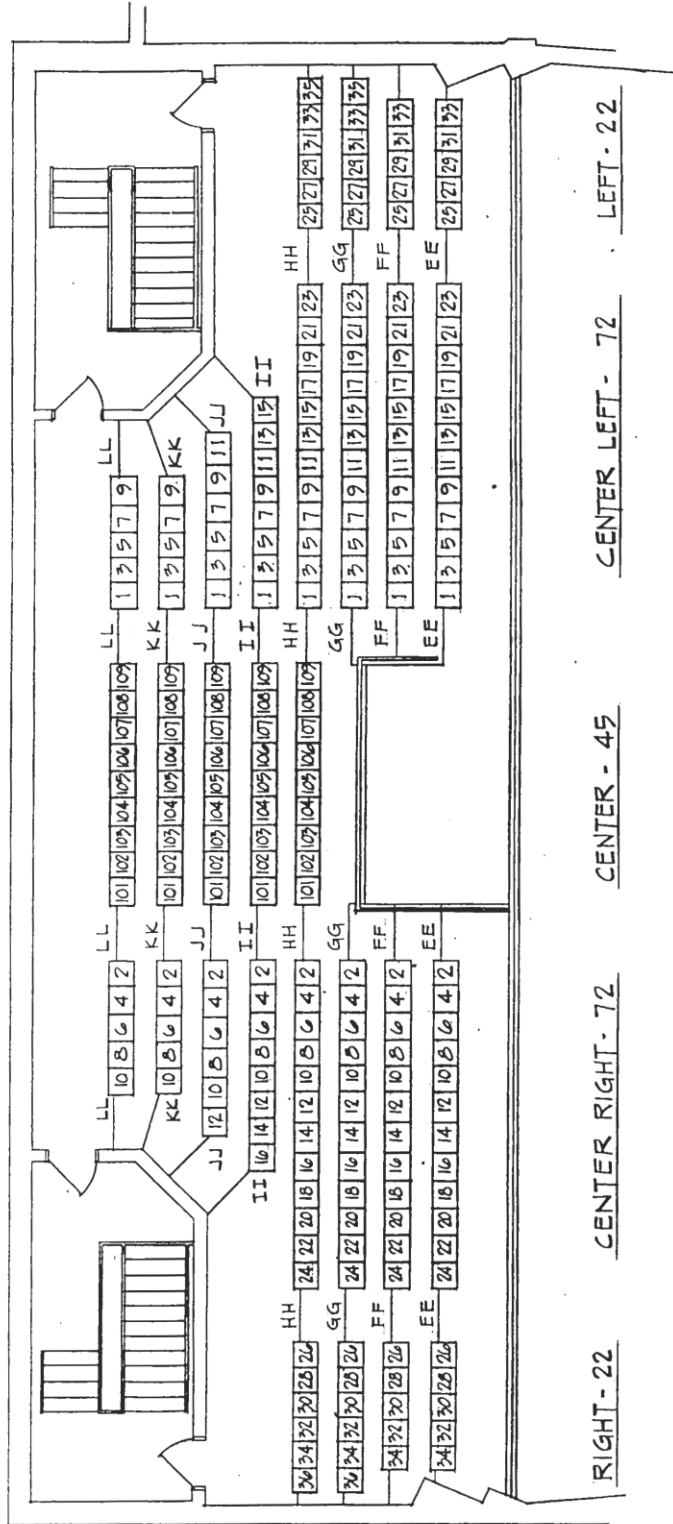
The Prom:

Ms. Bethanne Mitchell, the Junior Class Advisor, is responsible for planning and organizing the Prom. If you have any questions related to this year's event, please contact her at bmitchell@woyarea.org.

Scottish Rite Cathedral - Orchestra Seating



Scottish Rite Cathedral - Balcony Seating



BALCONY SEATING PLAN

TOTAL SEATS - 233

Senior Commencement Stationery Information

The commencement stationery products that many of you ordered in the fall from Student Services Company of Norristown will be arriving soon. Students will be picking them up from Mr. Beck in Room 413. An announcement will be made during homeroom when the products arrive.

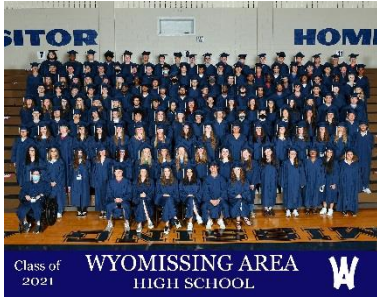
Other items that you may have ordered, such as souvenir tassels, key rings, jewelry, and mugs, may not be included in your order at this time. As soon as these items arrive, Mr. Beck will distribute them.

If you ordered a mini-diploma, please know that it will be mailed directly to your home after graduation.

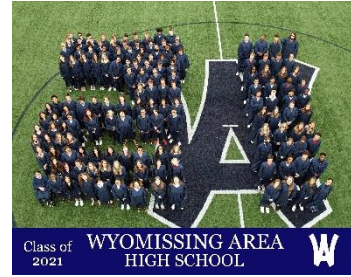
If you have any questions or concerns about your order, please contact the company directly. Here is the contact information:

Mr. Anthony Ferraro
Student Services Company
Larame Building
2502 West Main Street, Suite 4
Norristown, PA 19403
610-539-1330
anthony@studentservicesco.com

2024 Wyomissing Class Photos



Class Photographs may be ordered directly from PhilMar Photography Using This Form



Sample Photos for illustration purposes only

***Class Photo
11x14 - \$20***

***24 Class Photo
8x10 - \$15***

Complete this form and mail Payment to:

***PhilMar Photography
238 Keats Drive
Sinking Spring, Pa 19608***

OR

***Have your student bring the form and payment to picture day on
May 20, 2024***

All photos will be available for pickup with graduation envelopes on May 31, 2024.

Quantity	Description & Size	Price each	Total
	11x14 Class Photo	\$20	
	8x10 "24" Class Photo	\$15	
		<i>Total Enclosed</i>	

(make Checks payable to PhilMar Photography)

Name of Graduate: _____

***Photos can also be ordered on website @ www.philmarphotos.com
(additional Shipping charges apply to online orders; all online orders will be mailed)***