



PLANNING YOUR ONE-OF-A-KIND  
SENIOR YEAR PHOTO SESSION

*seniors*



THE ULTIMATE GRAD READY STYLE & PLANNING GUIDE  
COMPLIMENTS OF WERTMAN STUDIOS



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Owner & Photographer  
WERTMAN STUDIOS

*Congratulations,* you are about to embark on  
the **UNFORGETTABLE** moments of your last year of high school!

I'm Monika, lead photographer and owner of Wertman Photography & Studios. With more than 15 years of experience photographing high school seniors, I've learned the most fabulous senior photos are those that reflect your authentic personality and interests. Capturing what makes you YOU is one of my absolute favorite things to photograph.

It's also the main reason why Wertman Photography & Studios includes an in-person consultation. It's a great time for you to ask questions, ease any nerves or uncertainties and plan the details of your session. We want to make sure we capture the very best photos that showcase the magic of you! Your two-hour session includes two (2) outfit changes and two (2) locations within a 25-mile radius of our Downtown Hagerstown studio. During your in-person consultation, you'll get to decide what hobbies and special interests you want to highlight in your photos and we will help you choose the perfect looks and prepare for your photo shoot day. Most importantly, you'll have plenty of time to get comfortable in front of the camera, so that your true self shines through.

**Let's CELEBRATE and show off your high school career in style.**

As a token of celebration, here's a style and planning guide that we've put together for you. It includes frequently asked questions, best practices and tips to accompany you on the exciting journey ahead. You can use it for inspiration, to help plan your senior year photo shoot and to record the special moments that will make up the chapters of your senior year . . .





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## *your high school career*



Before diving straight into the planning, take a mindful pause to relish in your special memories, celebrate your accomplishments and record the details.

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Accomplishments: \_\_\_\_\_

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Favorite Memories: \_\_\_\_\_

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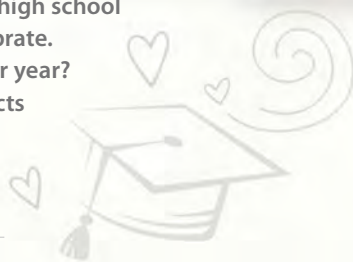
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**FAQ: Do you have location recommendations?**  
We know the area well and will make suggestions during our in-person consultation, based on our conversation and your personal preferences.

List hobbies, interests and special high school experiences that you want to celebrate.  
What excites you about your senior year?  
What are the most important aspects to capture in your senior photos?



## Why Personalized Senior Photos?

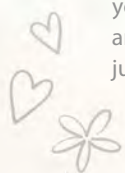
Personalized senior photos allow you to celebrate your high school journey and showcase your unique style in an exciting way that you'll love sharing with family and friends AND that you will cherish for years to come!

- Enjoy a fun session highlighting your hobbies, special interests, school activities, sports and achievements.
- Step into the spotlight and express your best self.
- We'll capture lots of exciting content for you to use on your graduation announcements, invitations and social media accounts.
- Commemorate this significant time in your life as you embark on an exciting new chapter.



## FAQ: Can I use my photos on graduation announcements?

If you choose to purchase a flash drive of your images, you may use them to create invitations and graduation announcements. We also offer this service, so you may just decide to have us do it for you.



What is your favorite time of the year? What do you like best about it? In what season would you most like to have your senior photos taken?

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## When to Schedule Your Senior Photos

The summer before your senior year is a popular time for senior photos, but the best season is the one that feels most like YOU! Avoid scheduling during your busiest time with sports or other activities so you can fully enjoy the experience. If we're also capturing your yearbook photo, we might need to plan two sessions and that's okay. Let's make it fun and uniquely yours!

**For winter sessions**, you'll want to come prepared with hand warmers, blankets and heavy coats that can be easily taken off and thrown back on to warm up between shots. **During warm weather sessions**, bring plenty of fluids to stay hydrated and maybe even a handheld fan to keep you cool.

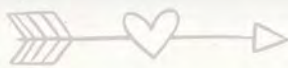
**As for the time of day**, if you love sunsets as much as we do, we recommend the evening for a soft and warm glowing sunset. We would start about two hours before sunset to capture plenty of images leading into the golden hour and maybe even a few right after dark.



## FAQ:

### Will you recreate something I found on Pinterest?

Pinterest is a neat place to find lots of inspo and we encourage you to build a mood board for your session. We will use your examples as inspiration to create images in our own style and with an eye towards your personalities and choice of location.



List your favorite locations. Is there a particular place that holds special meaning for you?

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## Where to Take Your Senior Photos

Choosing the perfect location requires some thought. We're super familiar with the surrounding area and always scouting out locations, so we can offer lots of great suggestions. We're also always open and excited to hear about your ideas, too. So, if you have a special place in mind, let's chat about it! Here are a few points to keep in mind as you're deciding:

- Some locations require special permissions and even fees for photographing.
- Some locations have peak seasons and are busier during certain times. We'll just want to have a plan in place so that we can dodge the crowds.
- Some locations are better than others for capturing certain types of images, like sunset photos.



## FAQ:

### Do I have to dress up for my senior photos?

Absolutely not! Wear what feels most like YOU. Your personal style shines best when you're comfortable. With two outfit changes, you can even mix it up — dress up for some and keep it casual for others.

List some of your favorite outfits. What colors do you think look the best on you?




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## What to Wear for Your Senior Photos

Your senior photos are a big deal. They'll be displayed on everything from your grad announcements and social media to the walls of your home, so you'll want to pull together looks that you are proud of and that best represent you.

Here are 10 style tips to consider in your planning...

- 1 **Choosing Colors:** Pick colors that compliment your skin tone, the season and your photo shoot location. Need inspiration? Check out the samples in this guide for ideas that pop and choices that work well.
- 2 **Avoid Patterns:** Stay away from large prints and patterns like stripes and other geometrics. They are an unnecessary distraction and they don't photograph well. If you love patterns, be sure to choose a smaller print and pair it with a solid color.



### FAQ:

**Can I include my dog?** Yes, pets are welcome. We do recommend that you bring along a friend to watch your pet while we're capturing just you.



Describe your personal style . . .

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**3 Flattering Shades:** Love pastels? They're beautiful but can sometimes wash you out, depending on the season and your skin tone. White and black can also be problematic. White reflects light and can wash out paler skin or contrast too much with darker skin. Black absorbs light and can visually push you to the background. Our go-to shades? Rich jewel-tones like red, navy, hunter green, purple and burnt orange—they flatter every skin tone and always photograph beautifully. The best rule? If you feel fabulous in a certain color, you'll look fabulous in it too.

**4 Casual vs. Formal:** This is always a fun decision and is completely based on your personal preferences. We adore a good contrast and love to take a formal look into an urban landscape or industrial setting. This concept also works well in nature, but requires a plan that considers appropriate footwear and fabrics in order to avoid snags. Regarding casual wear, be mindful with your choices. Yes, you want to be comfy, but you still want to look your best.

**5 Seasonal Wear:** If you decide on a late fall or winter session, choose form-fitting sweaters. Stay warm by layering long johns underneath jeans and tights under skirts, dresses or slacks. Cute scarves and mittens are great accessories. For spring and summer, wear light fabrics that move nicely in a breeze and reflect the season.

**6 Shape:** Choose form-fitting over loose clothing. Stay away from blousy and gathered tops as they hide your shape and make you appear larger. If you have an hourglass figure, opt for a fitted dress or pantsuit. If you have more of a pear-shaped body go with an A-line garment. Guys always look sharp in long pants or dress shorts with button-down shirts or polos that can easily stay untucked for a casual look.

**7 Shoes:** Your feet will definitely be in some photos, so put some thought into your footwear. If you decide on a dress or skirt, don't wear ankle boots. Visually, they cut off your leg above the ankle and look awkward in photos. Choose a cute flat shoe, sandal or heel instead. For outdoor locations, consider a wedged shoe rather than heels so you don't sink into areas with soft ground. Depending on the season, a long boot that ends above your knee is a win. However, with formal wear, heels are a must. Pick a height that you can walk in comfortably. Men have it easier here—a loafer, boot or dress shoe works well for most any season.

**8 Picture-Perfect Hands & Nails:** Your hands and feet will be in some shots, so consider treating yourself to a mani-pedi or ensure they're clean and polished—every detail counts and the camera misses nothing.



**FAQ:** Can we include props? Yes, we encourage it! They add oo's and ah's and personality to your photos. Think things like blankets, a book, stuffed animal or chalkboard with your grad date or a cute saying.



Props can spark emotion and add special meaning to your senior photos. Make a list of potential props that could help tell your story ...

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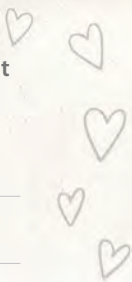
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**9 Accessories:** Wearing jewelry that has special meaning adds a wonderful touch to your photos. The piece should compliment your outfit without being a distraction. A statement necklace can jazz up a solid color with a high neck, and earrings can add pizzazz to any outfit. A good guide is always, less is more.

**10 We Love Props:** It's always fun to incorporate props. They add a fun and personal touch to your photos! Bring a chalkboard with a favorite saying, a box of high school memories, or something that brings you comfort—like a cozy blanket or stuffed animal. It really all depends on your interests and what you want to highlight. Love sports or music? Don't forget your gear! If you decide to include props, let's plan ahead to make sure we capture every meaningful shot.



## FAQ:

### Does the session fee include images?

The session fee includes the two hours we spend capturing your images, two (2) outfit changes, and two (2) locations within a 25-mile radius of our Downtown Hagerstown studio. Purchasing images is a separate cost and there are different collections to choose from. We take great care in creating and delivering artwork that you will love.

## To-Do List:

- ☐ Gather Senior Shoot Inspiration
- ☐ Call Wertman Studios (301.693.3021) to Schedule Your In-person Consultation
- ☐ Decide on a Date and Time
- ☐ Choose Your Location(s)
- ☐ Select Your Outfits
- ☐ Relax & Enjoy!



We hope you will consider Wertman Studios to capture your senior year memories.

We look forward to meeting you!

LET'S STAY CONNECTED:  @WertmanStudiosSeniors  @wertmanseniors2

[WWW.WERTMANPHOTOGRAPHY.NET](http://WWW.WERTMANPHOTOGRAPHY.NET)

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