



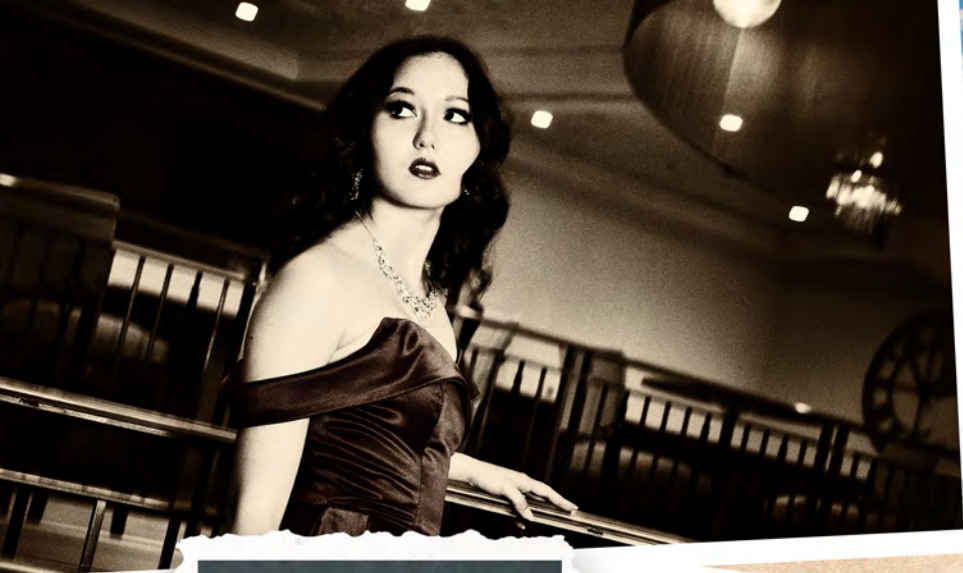
YOUR SENIOR YEAR ULTIMATE
SURVIVAL GUIDE

seniors



THE ULTIMATE GRAD READY PLANNING GUIDE

COMPLIMENTS OF WERTMAN STUDIOS



Monika Wertman
Owner & Photographer
WERTMAN STUDIOS

congratulations, you're about to embark on
the **UNFORGETTABLE** moments of your last year in high school!

I'm Monika, lead photographer and owner of Wertman Studios. With more than 15 years of experience photographing senior sessions, I've learned that 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 and 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 (2) hour session includes two (2) outfit changes and two (2) locations within a 25 mile radius from 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 your true self shines through..

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

As a token of celebration, here's our ultimate 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, includes reminders of important dates to remember and to record special moments that will make up the chapters of your senior year . . .





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

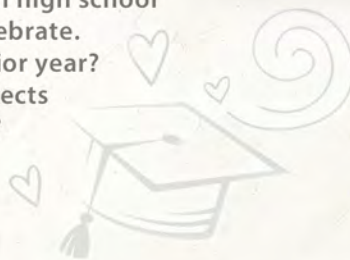
Today's Date: _____

Accomplishments: _____

Favorite Memories: _____



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.



AUG: If you have not scheduled your session yet, now is the time!

Your summer has been busy, but school is starting soon and your time will be limited. Plus, your yearbook photo will be due in Oct. so act now!

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

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 easily be taken off and thrown back on to warm between shots. **During warm weather seasons**, bring plenty of fluids to stay hydrated and maybe even a handheld fan to keep cool.

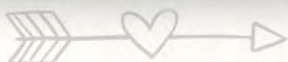
As for the time of day, if you love sunsets as much as we do, we recommend the evening for a soft and warm glowing sunset. We would start about two hours before the sun sets to capture plenty of images leading into the golden hour and maybe even a few right after dark.



SEPT:

Your last Homecoming dance and the last month before things get really busy!

The temps are getting cooler which makes September a perfect time for photos. Your school will begin asking you to provide your yearbook photo. Keep them informed if you are planning a fall session.



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

Where to take your Senior Photos?

Choosing the perfect location requires some thought. We're super familiar with the surrounding area and are always scouting out locations, so we can offer lots of great suggestions. We're also open and excited to hear about your ideas as well. 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.



OCT & NOV:

Time to decide which college you will attend or career path you will follow.

Universities and colleges offer three deadlines: Early decision, typically Nov 1 or 15th, regular decision, January 1 or 15, and rolling admission, which vary between schools.

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



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 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.



DEC, JAN & FEB:

College and FAFSA! By now, you decided on your path after graduation. If it's college, it's time to fill out your FAFSA and plan on how to pay for college. Filling out the FAFSA is free, go to this website: <https://studentaid.gov>



Describe your personal style....

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 visibly push you to the background. Our go-to shades? Rich jewel-tones like red, navy, huntergreen, 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.

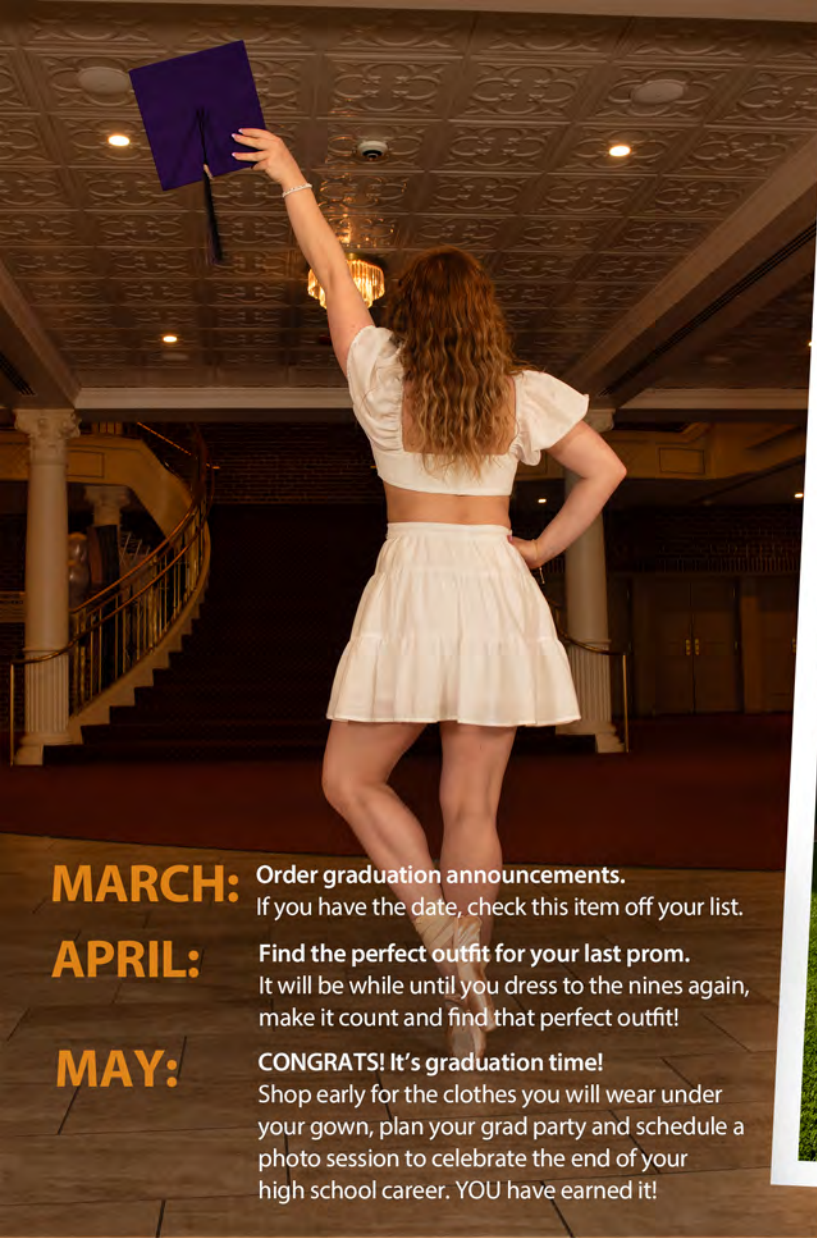
4 Casual vs. Formal: This is always a fun decision and is completely based on your personal preferences. We adore a good contrast and love to take a formal look into an urban landscape or industrial setting. This concept also works well in nature, but requires a plan that considers appropriate footwear 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 figure 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. Guys have it easier here; a loafer, boot or dress shoe works well for any season.

8 Picture-Perfect Hands and 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.



MARCH: Order graduation announcements. If you have the date, check this item off your list.

APRIL: Find the perfect outfit for your last prom. It will be while until you dress to the nines again, make it count and find that perfect outfit!

MAY: **CONGRATS! It's graduation time!** Shop early for the clothes you will wear under your gown, plan your grad party and schedule a photo session to celebrate the end of your high school career. YOU have earned it!



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

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! Have your first dance costume or ballet shoes? Bring them. If you decide to include props, let's plan ahead to make sure we capture every meaningful moment.

FAQ:

Does the session fee include images?

The session fee includes 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 and a la carte options 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
- ☐ Visit Colleges or Career Centers You Are Interested In
- ☐ Order Your Cap and Gown
- ☐ Order Your Grad Announcements
- ☐ Relax & Enjoy!



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

We look forward to meeting with you!

LET'S STAY CONNECTED:  @WertmanStudiosSeniors  @wertmanseniors2

WWW.WERTMANPHOTOGRAPHY.NET

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