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Senior Year for Dummies

There's nothing like walking into the first day of high school as a senior. Everyone looks forward to being the top dog at school. It's a sort of confidence like no other. Seniors know a bunch of teachers, they know their way around the school well, they know they're often feared and/or envied, but most importantly, they know they're in the stage of entering adulthood. Senior year is definitely fun and games, but it's also full of lots of preparation for what's to come.

The most common path taken by students after graduating high school is attending a four year university. Other paths taken include attending a community or technical college, joining the military, starting a business, or even taking a gap year. There is no right or wrong path to take; everybody is different. Gap years offer time to work, travel, and/or find a calling.

For seniors planning on attending a four year university, their year can be busy. In the beginning of the school year, many seniors are still taking the ACT or SAT, whether it's for the first time or they're trying to score higher than they previously did. With these test scores, they can begin applying to universities. College applications can be long, hard, and tedious, but they're also not quite as bad as some make them out to be, especially if they don't require essays. In the midst of college apps, seniors are cheering on their football team from the student section for the last year. Faster than anyone could imagine, it's time for their last homecoming. It'd usually be their first of only two dances for the year, but seniors have prom. It's such a special night where everyone looks so grown, in their long gowns and suits.

For the 2019-2020 school year, things definitely took a unique, tragic turn. COVID-19 hit like a train. On May 13th, 2020, Skyline seniors participated in a drive-thru to pick up their caps, gowns, diploma covers, and more. By May 20th, seniors were expected to send in photos wearing their caps and gowns for an online graduation ceremony since large gatherings were cancelled due to COVID-19. Along with graduation being cancelled, prom also never took place. The class of 2020 will forever be known as a strong, amazing class of students who were never able to be honored as any regular seniors are.

Rather than the usual cap and gown photos taken at graduation, seniors have been posting more fun, unique cap and gown photos due to the circumstances. It might be hard to focus on them, but there are upsides to school's closure. This time at home has definitely been a drag and has been upsetting in many ways, but it's important to remember that there is still so much to be thankful for. The class of 2020 was a very influential class of Skyline and will forever be remembered as one of the greatest.



