

Class of 2026

Somerset College Preparatory Academy

Senior Handbook

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Somerset College Prep Academy

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Welcome Class of 2026

Somerset College Prep Academy extends a warm welcome to each of you, as you are working to complete the final year of your high school career. We want you to experience a successful year. We are very excited to assist you with making this a memorable time, as many exciting activities are being planned for you. This handbook is provided to keep you up to date with events, deadlines, and pending fees.

The class of 2026 is our second graduation class. It is important that we build strong relationships and memories by participating in these planned activities. As school leaders, we expect you to set an example, stay motivated and most of all have a memorable final year filled with fun school spirited activities.

Please know that as your class sponsors, we are here to help you. Feel free to stop by (at an appropriate time) email or leave a note for any of us if you need assistance. We are here for you!

Class of 2026 Contact Info:

Mrs. Erika Rains	Rains.Erika@somersetcollegeprep.org
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Senior Fees

Senior fees cover everything *except* activity week, Grad Bash and Prom, which can be purchased separately.

Senior fees for the 2026 class are \$215.00 per student.

The payment for senior fees will be collected online, via the school store. **The fees are due by March 27, 2026.**

Refund Policy

If you have paid your graduation fees and do not graduate in 2026, but you return to Somerset College Preparatory Academy in the fall of 2026 as a 2nd year senior, the senior fee for the Class of 2027 will be waived.

If you do not graduate in 2026 and do not return to Somerset College Preparatory Academy, no refund will be issued.

Graduation Cap and Gown

Representatives from Jostens will be at Somerset College Preparatory Academy, on **October 8, 2025**, for a mandatory senior presentation on caps, gowns, victory hood, and class of 2026 tassels. The ordering of your cap and gown for graduation will be taken by Jostens. You must complete an order form for the cap and gown when Jostens representatives are on campus during the announced date. **Cap and Gown cost is included in the senior fee.** Jostens representatives will be on campus taking graduation material orders on **October 8, 2025**, from 6:00pm – 7:00pm.

Graduation Announcements

The Jostens representatives will present the Somerset College Prep Class of 2026 graduation announcements and other graduation memorabilia on **October 8, 2025**. The cost of announcements varies depending upon the item(s) you choose to purchase and the quantity. A deposit for your announcement order will need to be paid when you place your order. The amount of the required deposit will be given to you in the meeting with Jostens. If you pay by check, **MAKE THE CHECK PAYABLE TO JOSTENS.**

*******Parents are encouraged to meet with Jostens. Do not miss this opportunity to order all the items you may need to celebrate your graduation*******

PICKING UP YOUR CAP AND GOWN FOR GRADUATION

Your cap and gown may be picked up on Friday, May 15, 2026, at Senior Check-out.

All seniors will receive **8** tickets to the graduation ceremony. This number is determined by the space available. Due to the planned seating arrangement for graduation and because of traffic and security considerations, there is seating capacity for the graduation ceremony that will be enforced.

Graduates may request extra tickets during the second week in April. Every attempt will be made to give you additional tickets. However, there is **NO GUARANTEE** that you will receive the total number of tickets you request. The request form for additional tickets will be in the main office spindle in April.

Before your cap and gown can be issued to you, all obligations (books, fees, parking fines, athletics, activity money, and any other outstanding obligation) must be cleared.

It is not wise to wait until the last minute to take care of these important matters.

2026 Graduation

Seniors, you and your Parent/Guardian must read and sign the SCPA Graduation Contract on the last page of this handbook to participate in the graduation ceremony.

To graduate in 2026, you are **REQUIRED** to attend the rehearsal that will guide you through the Graduation Ceremony activities. The rehearsal will be at the Civic Center on Graduation Day at 12:00 PM.

IF YOU WANT TO WALK FOR GRADUATION, YOU MUST ATTEND THE REHEARSAL.

Required Dress Code for Graduation

Ladies: Do not let your dress show below the hem of your gown. Dress shoes are mandatory.

Thong type shoes (any type of flip flops) are not allowed.

This is a safety issue for your protection as you are going up and down the stairs of a stage.

Gentlemen: Dress pants must be worn. You must wear dress shoes.

No tennis shoes or sandals may be worn.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ATTENDING SENIOR ACTIVITIES

Seniors must:

1. HAVE A GOOD ATTENDANCE RECORD

Excessive absences may result in NOT being allowed to participate in Senior Activities. No more than 10 (ten) unexcused absences per year. Special circumstances will be addressed and considered on an individual basis. Remember that all notes for absences need to be turned into the attendance office within 3 days. The note should include first and last name.

2. BE A SENIOR OF RECORD (20 or more COMPLETED credits)

School records must verify you are classified as a senior and will graduate in May 2026. You must have a minimum GPA of 2.0.

3. HAVE A GOOD DISCIPLINE RECORD

4. TURN IN CORRECTLY COMPLETED and SIGNED PERMISSION FORMS BY THE SPECIFIED DATE

All financial obligations must be paid in full to participate in all senior activities.

At SCPA it is expected that ALL students will be on their best behavior at all senior activities. **Seniors who do not follow the rules at any of the senior activities will NOT be permitted to attend other senior functions.** You may also be subject to a discipline referral, along with disciplinary action, up to and including suspension from walking in the graduation ceremony.

SENIOR PINNING

The Senior Pinning will be held at the Senior Banquet on **Wednesday, May 13, 2026**, at 6:00PM.at the Havert L. Fenn Center.

Tickets cost TBD.

SENIOR ACTIVITIES WEEK

See separate handout.

Graduation Cords

SCPA Cord: Maroon/Gold- 27 credits

Credit Requirements:

4 ELA (English)
 4 Math: Algebra 1, Geometry, and 2 additional math credits
 4 Science: 1 Biology, plus 3 additional science credits.
 3 Social Studies: 1 World History, 1 US History, ½ US Government ½ Economics
 ½ Personal Financial Literacy
 1 P.E.
 1 Fine or Performing Practical Art
 7 ½ credits in Electives
 2 Foreign Language (Consecutive)
 Pass State Assessments for Communication and Math
 100 Volunteer Hours

Scholar Designation Cord: Teal/White

Credit Requirements:

Earn 1 Credit in Algebra II
 Earn 1 Credit in Statistics or an Equally Rigorous Mathematics Course
 Earn 1 Credit in Chemistry or Physics
 Earn 1 Credit in a course Equally Rigorous to Chemistry or Physics
 Earn 2 credits in the same World Language
 Earn at least 1 credit in AP, IB, AICE or Dual Enrollment course
 Pass Algebra 1 EOC exam
 Pass Geometry EOC exam
 Pass Biology 1 EOC exam
 Pass US History EOC exam
 Pass State Assessments for Communication and Math
 100 Volunteer Hours

<u><i>Cord</i></u>	<u><i>Color</i></u>	<u><i>Requirement</i></u>
National Honor Society:	Blue/Gold	Current Member
Science National Honor Society:	Green/Purple/Gold	Current Member
English National Honor Society:	Blue/Yellow	Current Member
High Honors:	Gold	GPA 4.0+ (Weighted)
Honors:	Silver	GPA 3.5-3.9 (Weighted)
Talented 20:	Teal	Top 20% of Senior Class
Volunteer:	White	250 Volunteer Hours on File
7-Year:	Black	SCPA Student Since 6th Grade
Music:	Light Pink	4 Years of High School Chorus
SGA:	Maroon	Elected Officer 2+ Years
S.A.D.D:	Gold/Ivory	Member 2+ Years
S.W.A.T:	Black/Green	Current Member
FFEA:	Light Pink/Light Purple	Member 2+ Years
FBA:	Light Blue/Ivory	Member 4+ Years

Science Olympiad:	Black/Gray	2+ Years, 3+Events (& Competitions- including senior year)
Volleyball:	Purple	2+ Full Varsity Seasons
Basketball:	Red	2+ Full Varsity Seasons
Soccer:	Kelly Green	2+ Full Varsity Seasons
Swim:	Light Blue	2+ Full Varsity Seasons
Cheer:	Red/Black	2+ Full Varsity Seasons
Bowling:	Navy Blue	2+ Full Varsity Seasons
Cross Country:	Light Purple	2+ Full Varsity Seasons
Track:	Forest Green	2+ Full Varsity Seasons

Valedictorian and Salutatorian

To be selected as *Valedictorian*, you must have the highest weighted GPA **AND** have been an SCPA student continuously since the first day of 9th grade.

To be selected as *Salutatorian*, you must have the second highest weighted GPA **AND** have been an SCPA student continuously since the first day of 9th grade.

Somerset College Prep Academy Graduation Contract

I, _____ (print name of senior) being a senior of the Class of 2026 at SCA and planning to participate in the Graduation Ceremony to be conducted on **May 23, 2026**, agree to the following:

I WILL ATTEND the Graduation Rehearsal at 12:00 PM.

I WILL STAY FOR THE ENTIRE REHEARSAL.

I WILL FOLLOW all guidelines concerning behavior and dress code.

I WILL NOT DISRUPT the Graduation Ceremony by leaving my seat at inappropriate times.

I WILL ARRIVE ON TIME 12:00 PM

I WILL NOT LEAVE the Graduation Ceremony until the Recessional is complete, and I have received my diploma and returned my gown.

I understand and acknowledge that failure to attend Graduation Rehearsal in its entirety may result in my not participating in the ceremony.

Print Student Name

Student Signature

Date _____

I, as the parent/guardian of the above listed Senior of the Class of 2026, have read this Graduation Contract. I understand and acknowledge its contents.

Print Parent/Guardian Name

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date _____