



SENIOR HANDBOOK

CALVARY BAPTIST SCHOOL 3401 N. FRAZIER ST.

CONROE, TEXAS 77303

936-756-0743

www.calvaryconroe.org calvaryconroe@gmail.com

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The faculty and administration at Calvary Baptist School are looking forward to an exciting senior year experience with the seniors and their parents. As senior memories add to other school memories, this should be the seniors' best year yet.

Calvary seniors have a great deal of attention and responsibility. Their primary job is to complete all academic requirements to qualify for graduation and prepare for their next phase of life. The next responsibility is to be a spiritual and social leader. I Timothy 4:12 commands that we be an example in word and behavior. Finally, seniors perform service for the community and the school and raise money for senior trip and graduation.

SECTION 1: SENIOR PARENTS – ROLE, RESPONSIBILITIES

Although seniors are encouraged and expected to assume the bulk of responsibility, parents continue to play a significant role during their child's final year of high school. Communication between the parents and principal is imperative. The principal utilizes the email system to communicate important information, alerts, notifications, and updates; therefore, it is important that the school have the most current email address. Parents are also expected to attend senior meetings. These meetings are an opportunity for important details to be communicated, concerns to be shared, questions to be answered, and ideas to be generated.

Parents are expected to monitor their senior's progress with dual credit classes, often providing them with guidance, encouragement, and motivation to successfully complete their assignments and classes in a timely matter.

As the senior begins to prepare for their next phase of life, parents play an essential role in helping them make important decisions. The process of selecting a college can be an overwhelming experience. Consequently, they will rely on parents for assistance and guidance in the decision-making process. Parents are encouraged to utilize college days to travel with their student to explore campuses of potential college choices. Another possibly overwhelming experience is the application and enrollment process. Parents should assist their senior in meeting deadlines and completing paperwork. This is also the case for financial preparation for college. Parental assistance is required for the financial aid process, and it is the responsibility of the parents to ensure FAFSA has been completed by October 1.

Parents should be prepared for what teachers jokingly call "Senioritis." This year of transition is often taxing mentally, physically, and emotionally on seniors. When they grow weary in this process, it seems to them that this year will never end and normal challenges and relationships are impossible. Parents should listen, give sympathy, and encourage them to keep their eyes on the prize and finish well. God uses these challenges to begin preparing them for adult life. It is hard to believe when all they want is to get out of school that they will one day cherish these memories.

In addition to the aforementioned parental responsibilities, parents also play an important role in many of the student activities, including senior fundraising, spring banquet planning, and graduation decorating.

Senior Night for sports is organized by the coaches to honor seniors. This is an important year of transition, and for most, this will likely be their last year of competitive sports. Before the last home game each senior and their parents are called forward and announced to the spectators with a list of things they have done in school and sports. Their picture is taken with the coach. Senior Night is organized by the coaches as an opportunity for the team, the fans, and the coaches to honor their years of contribution to the team and the school. Often parents present their child with a small gift such as flowers, a stuffed animal, or balloons.

SECTION 2: SENIOR FUNDRAISING

Successful fundraising is not possible without the consistent commitment of parent volunteers. While parental participation is somewhat limited in some fundraiser events, in others it is extensive and vital. It is expected that all senior parents will share responsibilities with other senior parents so no one parent is burdened with too much responsibility.

Seniors need to raise approximately \$2,000 each for senior trip, graduation decorations, and senior gift. A primary fundraiser is Snack Shack. Seniors will work, clean, inventory, order products, stock, and count money from August through senior trip in April. Seniors work in teams of two before school and during lunches. Each year a senior parent volunteers to pick up and deliver the Sam's weekly order.

Fundraisers must be approved and scheduled at least two months in advance. If a parent or student has an idea for a fundraiser, product and profit information should be gathered and submitted to the sponsor for approval.

During fundraising events seniors must wear their senior shirt and loose-fitting jeans or knee length shorts. Sponsoring parents are expected to wear modest shirts (no spaghetti straps) and loose-fitting jeans or knee length shorts.



SECTION 3: SENIOR TRIP

Seniors choose their senior trip destination from a list of approved locations. The decision is made by a majority vote and must be finalized by the beginning of senior year. Each senior gets to choose two or three favorite activities to be considered for the trip itinerary.

For the trip, each student must bring a valid Texas Identification Card or a Texas driver's license and an insurance card. If a debit or credit card is sent with the student, the bank must be notified that the card will be used out of state.

PACKING LIST: One suitcase (50 pounds max) and a carry-on. Suitcase, carry-on, and personal items must have both inside and outside identification: name, address, phone #, and parent's #.

- Medications: Any medicines in carry-on must be in original container.
- Toiletries: TSA liquid rule allows passengers to carry only one quart-sized bag of liquids, aerosols, gels, creams and pastes in carry-on bag and through the checkpoint. These are limited to travel-sized containers that are 3.4 ounces or less per item. For more information, visit: <https://www.tsa.gov/travel/security-screening/liquids-rule>
- Cell phone and camera (Label: name, address, student's #, and parent's #).
- Charger(s) for electronic devices (Label: name).
- Towel
- No prank paraphernalia
- Clothing: Seniors **will wear their senior shirt when departing** and their school travel shirt when returning home with loose-fitting knee length shorts or loose-fitting jeans and tennis shoes.

All clothing should be loose-fitting and follow school guidelines for modesty.

- School travel shirt
- 3-4 loose-fitting, knee-length shorts
- 2-3 pair loose-fitting jeans (**no skinny jeans**)
- Comfortable tennis shoes and socks
- Appropriate T-Shirts (**No spaghetti straps or tank tops**)
- Church clothes
- Pajamas (a t-shirt and long shorts or pants for sleepwear)
- JACKET (STUDENTS SHOULD DRESS IN LAYERS)

Chaperone will purchase shampoo, conditioner and laundry soap.

SECTION 4: SENIOR APPRECIATION

At Calvary Baptist School, seniors are expected to be an example to the student body in testimony which includes behaviors and attitudes. To create an environment of servanthood-leadership, the senior class is trusted with certain responsibilities and are required to demonstrate the quality of serving others. While much of this is accomplished in their roles as teacher's aides, Snack Shack workers, and lunch room cleaners; the seniors are also given the opportunity to serve the student body through the responsibility of Spring Formal Banquet and through the generosity of the Senior Gift.

SPRING FORMAL BANQUET: Seniors plan and host the banquet at the reserved location. Location needs to be reserved by the school by December first. Seniors and their parents plan the theme, the program, the decorations, and the food with assistance and approval from administration.

SENIOR GIFT: As an expression of gratitude, seniors choose a parting senior gift for the school to invest back into the school. Past classes have given these gifts: classroom vacuums and a carpet cleaning machine, trophy case, picnic tables, front sign, and donations toward other needs such as the bus fund.



SECTION 5: GRADUATION

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS from Student Handbook

CREDITS SUBJECT

4 Bible (1 credit per year of attendance)

4 English

4 Mathematics

1 Government/Economics

3 History

3 Science

1 Physical education

2 Foreign Language

1 Fine Arts

1 Speech/Health

24 Total Required Credits



Note: Seniors must have at least 4 credits from Calvary or have enrolled by the beginning of the spring semester to be allowed to graduate from Calvary.

VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIAN

The valedictorian / salutatorian must attend Calvary Baptist School his junior and senior year. If he has transferred high school credits, it must be from a school of like curriculum where the grades are independently verifiable. Validation is at the discretion of the administration.

A current GPA is released after the end of first semester during the senior year. At this time in mid-January, the students are notified of their class rank. If there is no clear valedictorian and salutatorian after the first semester of the senior year, students' numerical averages will be re-evaluated after each grading period. The valedictorian and salutatorian are determined using numerical averages and will be announced at a time to be determined by administration.

HONORED GRADUATES

Seniors who maintain a B average throughout high school will wear a white cord. Seniors who maintain an A average throughout high school will wear a gold cord. Salutatorian and valedictorian also wear a stole. Gowns will be collected about thirty minutes after graduation to give parents and graduates adequate time for taking pictures. Students may keep caps, tassels, stoles, and cords.

GRADUATION INFORMATION

The location of graduation will be announced in January.

GRADUATION INVITATIONS

Invitations must be ordered in January to avoid late fees and to have them arrive in sufficient time. A sample of the official CBS invitation is available in the principal's office. The minimum total order from all students is 300, and the cost is approximately \$1.25 per card. Prior to ordering the invitations through the school in January, each family must have a total for the number of invitations they need and their half-down payment of their total cost. Final payment for invitations must be made upon invitations' arrival. If you choose to order your own on line, pictures must follow school guidelines.

SENIOR PICTURES

Each senior is required to get senior pictures taken in January for the yearbook and the senior slide show. These are basic cap and gown pictures. Students are encouraged to get additional pictures taken elsewhere.

SLIDE SHOW

Seniors must turn in a flash drive with sixteen pictures, pre-organized in the order the pictures should be shown at graduation. Digital pictures are sharper on the large screen than scanned ones. Parents and students must keep in mind that some really cute pictures are not appropriate for this venue on the large screen. Please, do not be late turning in your slide show pictures by February 1. We will add pictures from the senior trip and your cap and gown picture from January. If you want a different cap and gown picture in the slide show, it must be scanned to a flash drive and turned in by May 1.

Please follow these slide show guidelines.

- Make sure attire is appropriate in the pictures
- Organize pictures from infant to current
- Be sure to include family members and important events
- Scan each picture individually at 600 dpi (dots per inch)
- Save all pictures in jpeg or png format

GRADUATION DECORATIONS

Seniors and parents will meet Friday morning of graduation to decorate the auditorium and set up senior tables. Parents will need to work with each other to plan, purchase, and execute decorations. Final plans must be cleared with the school principal.

SENIOR TABLES

Tables are six feet with black table cloths. The tables are decorated with personal memorabilia from the student's childhood and may include some of the following:

- Trophies and school memorabilia
- Academic Awards
- Sports Awards
- Pictures
- Individually wrapped candy
- Scrapbook
- Story Boards
- Stuffed Animals
- Balloons
- Guest Book

***NO CONFETTI ALLOWED BY THE CHURCH**

Containers should be placed under each table to gather personal items before departure.



SENIOR YEAR SCHEDULE

August

- Begin free online prep course for SAT. Tests are given in school in October.
- Send final scores to colleges.

The school ID number for CBS is 441462.

September

- Submit updated college resume to school principal.
- Prepare college admission materials.
- Get applications for three colleges now — either by downloading or by mail.
- Gather financial information and fill out FAFSA.

October

- Submit FAFSA.
- Write college essays.
- Get recommendations from two teachers.

November

- Request college housing applications.

December

- Review college applications and deadlines to insure everything is on target.

January

- Senior pictures
- Order invitations
- Discuss graduation speaker
- Begin work on Spring Banquet: decorations, catered food, program and theme, programs and souvenirs, and gifts for court.
- Make sure grades are on target for a May graduation.
- Contact universities by e-mail or phone to ensure applications were received.
- Order current semester transcripts after January 20 to send to colleges.

February

- Submit sixteen pictures on a flash drive for graduation slide show (Due February 1). Make sure pictures are in your preferred order, and put name on the flash drive. Instructions on page 7.

March

- Spring Banquet: Friday before Spring Break
- Plan some college visits during Spring Break
- Notify each college of final decision (after receiving all financial aid offers).

April

- Write insert for graduation program.
- Senior trip in April
- Send letter of intent to register to one and only one college by May 1.

May

- Plan decorations for graduation and senior table.
- Select senior gift.

A CHECK LIST FOR PARENTS BEFORE LIFT-OFF

A strong relationship with the Lord and a determination to seek and do His will are critical to a graduate's success wherever he is. Parents should continue to be part of their senior's discussions of future plans, while encouraging him to seek God's will. This transition from high school graduation to more adult responsibilities is exciting and scary for parents and graduates. Both place their confidence in God's protection and guidance. Parents should encourage their young adult to maintain a daily relationship with the Lord and get involved in a local church.

Here are 8 skills Dr. Melissa Deuter advises every teen should have before leaving the nest:

College acceptance boards and HR experts at companies screen candidates to ensure they are qualified to enter universities or careers. Applicants are filtered in (or out) based on intellectual gifts, drive, and accomplishments. So, why do some thrive while other flounder? Most experts would point to a group of skills and attributes as the determining factors in young adult success or failure. Kids with a solid foundation of healthy coping and self-care skills are better equipped to hang in there when the transition away from home gets tough.

The best approach to ensure a kid will succeed: teach the requisite skills. Skills every teen should develop before leaving home:

Emotional/Psychological Skills:

What are they?

Emotional and psychological skills include the ability to identify emotions, self soothe, exhibit self-control of inner emotional states, wait patiently, solve problems, delay gratification, tolerate uncomfortable feelings, and maintain control of behavior.

Why are these skills important?

Young adults with well-developed emotional/psychological skills know how to walk away from a fight and how to exit an out of control social situation (like a party where friends are using drugs). They can manage emotions rather than fall apart under stress.

Friendship/Interpersonal Relationship Skills:

What are they?

Good social skills go a long way. Teens should know how to carry on a conversation with a person of any age. They should be good judges of character. They should learn to speak up, stand up for a friend, keep a secret (and when to refuse to keep a secret), how to ignore bad behavior, and when to confront someone who is out of line. Likewise they need to learn to really listen, admit fault and apologize, talk out a conflict with a friend (or roommate), say I love you, and hug.

Why are these skills important?

Relationship problems can result in job loss (nobody wants an employee who can't get along with coworkers) and can serve as a big distraction from daily responsibilities. It's hard to stay focused when you're in constant conflict with a roommate or a professor. Interpersonal skills can help kids navigate conflicts and misunderstandings.

Romantic/Intimate Relationship Skills:

What are they?

They can learn to ask someone on a date, navigate romantic feelings, and eventually to break up with a boyfriend or girlfriend if the situation requires.

Why are these skills important?

Romantic skills can help kids learn to distinguish between love and infatuation. They can also learn to cope with rejection, say no, and control the urge to advance physical relationships too quickly.

Financial skills:

What are they?

Before leaving home, teens need practice budgeting, managing money, balancing a checkbook, saving for emergencies, maintaining bank accounts, and paying bills.

Why are these skills important?

Budgeting problems can cause kids to bounce back home. If they can't pay the bills, they won't be capable of independence.

Academic/Work Skills:

What are they?

When teens know how to be punctual, stay on task, and pay attention to details, they are better equipped for school and career. Volunteering or working part time while living with parents can build these skills further.

Why are these skills important?

Learning how to be a productive student or employee begins with learning basic responsibility.

Domestic/Maintenance Skills:

What are they?

Basic cooking, auto maintenance- like learning when the car should be serviced and how to change a tire, laundry, cleaning skills for a dorm room or apartment, and handling small household emergencies like a clogged toilet are all skills necessary to build before teens move out.

Why are these skills important?

Domestic emergencies can be overwhelming and expensive. Maintenance and prevention can save kids from stress and costly mistakes.

Self-Care Skills:

What are they?

Your teen should be equipped to ask for help, say no, and be assertive. Most teens need to learn to be in a quiet place to re-group, talk or write about difficult problems, and to plug into a church community for support.

Why are these skills important?

When young adults move out, Mom and Dad are no longer around to hold them up. Kids need to learn to do these things for themselves to lower the risk of succumbing to daily pressures and insecurities.

Medical Care Management Skills:

What are they?

Every adult needs to have healthcare knowledge to be capable of giving a medical history, filling a prescription at a pharmacy, or knowing how to self-diagnose simple illnesses, use a thermometer, and take over-the-counter medications.

Why are these skills important?

They first time a young adult gets sick far from home, he may feel completely overwhelmed and unprepared. Basic health management skills empower young adults to practice self-care and to see a medical professional when necessary.

To develop new skills, your teen needs to learn through experience. Give your teen ample room to take on responsibilities and make mistakes while he still lives at home. Provide abundant opportunities for supervised practice. Your family is the best judge of when your teenager is ready. Base your support and expectations on your child's abilities, level of emotional security, and personal history.

HELPFUL SENIOR LINKS

College Board: SAT, ACT, CLEP, etc. <https://www.collegeboard.org/>

College Board: College Planning <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/>

FAFSA: Federal Grants, Loans, etc. <https://fafsa.ed.gov/>

College for All Texans: College Search, Financial Aid <http://www.collegeforalltexans.com/>

Scholarship Search <https://www.scholarships.com/>

Student Scholarship Search <https://www.studentscholarships.org/>

Discount Books, Internships, Scholarships, ETC. <http://www.chegg.com/>

College Search, College Reviews, College Scholarships: <https://www.cappex.com/>

FastWeb Scholarship Search <https://www.fastweb.com/>

College Scholarship Search: <https://scholarships.fatomei.com/college-graduate-scholarships.html>

PLEASE NOTE: Students should check with their employers, student organizations, chosen college, parents' employers, and parents' organizations for additional scholarship opportunities.