



**COLLOSAINS 2:7**

*Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness.*

**PPEA CLASS OF 2026 – GRADUATION INFORMATION PACKET**  
**THIS YEAR'S COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY WILL BE HELD ON May 16, 2026**  
**AT STARKEY ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**8800 STARKEY ROAD, SEMINOLE, FL 33777**

Graduation is an amazing accomplishment for the student (and parent) that should be celebrated to its fullest. Join us as we honor our graduates' completion of their homeschool journey and their beginning of what God has in store for their future.

**MANDATORY DATES AND DEADLINES TO REMEMBER:**

Please put these dates on your calendar now.

**February 13, 2026 - Graduation Registration Deadline**

- PPEA membership completed and paid
- Graduation application completed and paid:
  - PPEA Member \$275.00 or Non Member \$330 from December 1, 2025 - February 13, 2026 (registration will close after this date)
- Graduation fee includes:

Graduation packet  
Senior only planned events  
Grad brunch - March 28, 2026  
Cap, gown, and tassel  
Graduation photo package from Moorman Photographics  
Reserved senior table  
Reserved parent and family seating at graduation  
Graduation rehearsal dinner  
Full-color program  
Certificate of Participation  
DVD of the commencement ceremony

Seniors are encouraged to be involved during the grad ceremony as this will make the program more meaningful. Please let us know if you are interested in participating in any of the following areas: Giving the senior speech (please submit copy of speech)

- Opening the graduation ceremony
- Singing the National Anthem (please submit audition video)
- Leading the Pledge of Allegiance
- Giving the senior speech (please submit copy of speech)

If you are interested in participating in any of these areas please send an email to [graduation@myppea.com](mailto:graduation@myppea.com) by February 21, 2026.

**February 28, 2026 - Program info deadline - email to [graduation@myppea.com](mailto:graduation@myppea.com)**

- Senior Biography (145-155 words in length, Bible verse not included in word count)
- Parent Charge (150 words or less, including verse)
- Graduate "Thank You" message to parents (75 words maximum)
- Five pictures for PowerPoint presentation (1 baby, 2-3 growing up, 1-2 senior)
- One senior headshot photo to be used for the biography in the program. This photo can be one of your senior shots from the PowerPoint presentation. Please make sure it is in portrait orientation and jpg format.

You will find further details and samples of the above requirements on pages 4-6 of this packet. Please put everything in Times New Roman 12-point font.

If you have questions you may email [graduation@myypea.com](mailto:graduation@myypea.com) or contact Neisha at (727) 231-1190 or Joanne at (727) 231-1178.

**March 28, 2026 - Graduation Brunch, from 10:00 am -1:00 pm, Starkey Road Baptist Church**

- Hand out caps and gowns
- Take senior class picture for the graduation program
- Select grad senior table

Let me know today if you would like to share a table with someone

- Reserve parent seating

Reserved seating is for immediate family (parents, siblings, grandparents). Parents of the graduates should plan to sit on the aisle because they join the graduates for the presentation of the diploma and turning of the tassel. Siblings/grandparents may not join the seniors on stage.

**The senior photo for the program cover will be taken at this meeting. Please adhere to the following guidelines for appropriate attire:**

Ladies must have on an appropriate dress or skirt with the length not shorter than five inches above mid-knee and no longer than the hem of the graduation gown. You must wear open or closed toe dress shoes. No flip flops, no tennis shoes (Converse), no boots of any kind. Gentlemen must wear a dress shirt with tie, dark dress pants, and dark dress shoes.

**May 15, 2026 - Graduation Rehearsal, from 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm, Starkey Road Baptist Church**

- This is a DRESS REHEARSAL! Seniors need to dress as they would for graduation.

Ladies must have on an appropriate dress or skirt with the length not shorter than five inches above mid-knee and no longer than the hem of the graduation gown. You must wear open or closed toe dress shoes. No flip flops, tennis shoes, or boots.

Gentlemen must wear a dress shirt with tie, dark dress pants, and dark dress shoes.

- Do not forget your cap and gown. If you plan on decorating your graduation cap you must keep all decorations on the top completely and do not have anything raised beyond one inch on it. If you have lights of any kind, they must be able to be turned off during the complete graduation ceremony, and you must not be able to see any lighting cords hanging on the outside of the gown or hat.
- 4:00 pm-5:00 pm - Graduate table setup. Tables must be completed this evening and comply with the following guidelines:

Most tables do not have an electrical outlet. Bring an extension cord if you need power.

You only have a three-foot length of a table. You may want to practice setting up your table at home, so that you know where everything goes. It is not polite to "bleed over" into your neighbor's space. Do not plan on using floor space next to a table or the seating areas.

Each table will be covered with a black plastic cover, but you may use your own tablecloth over that if you wish. Candy may be set on your table, and many seniors use a guestbook and a basket or box for cards.

Make sure your name is on your board or table so that all your guests will know this is your space.

Parents - please monitor the wording on your student's board. It is our desire that these boards be honoring the Lord and your family.

We ask that you please not display any naked baby photos.

- 5:00 pm -6:00pm - A Light dinner will be provided.
- 6:00 - Everyone will get into their caps and gowns.
- 6:15 - Rob Moorman will be here to take the Class photo.
- 6:45- We will do a full run through of the ceremony.
- Graduates will meet their parents on the steps to the stage. If you are not able to climb the steps, please let us know.
- Parents and graduates **MUST** attend. If you plan to be on stage, then you **MUST** be at this rehearsal. Siblings and grandparents will not enjoy the process so you may want to make other plans for them. Please plan on arriving on time and staying for the entire rehearsal.
- Bring your camera. Rehearsal and after the ceremony will be your best chance to capture your memories.

### **May 16, 2026 - Graduation, from 9:00 am - 12:30 pm, Starkey Road Baptist Church**

- Graduates will arrive no later than 9:00 am.
- Graduates must be in the designated room (ready to go, in cap and gown) no later than 9:30 am. **Cell phones and valuables MUST be left with your family.** Do NOT leave them in the room or plan to take them on stage.
- Please come in appropriate attire. Please refer to the rehearsal guidelines for attire. Failure to comply with attire guidelines may result in your student not participating in the commencement ceremony. There will be no refund of fees paid.
- No cell phones, gum, or snacks on stage. No bull horns, air horns, or loud noise makers!
- Graduation photo etiquette:

You will not be able to take flash pictures during the actual ceremony.

You will not be able to leave your seats or stand during the ceremony for pictures.

There will be no use of a tripod unless you stand at the back of the church.

Please note: It is not appropriate to impede the work of our professionals. This could affect the quality of someone else's graduation pictures. Please tell your friends to follow the rules. Rob Moorman is our professional graduation photographer. He will take the graduation photo package. The package will include the senior class photo, a picture of the grad entering, a picture of the parents and grad during the diploma/tassel moment, and candid shots. This package is included in your graduation fee.

Missing deadlines or mandatory meetings may result in the student being no longer eligible to participate in graduation. There will be no refund of fees paid.

### **Additional Information**

**Information to give your extended friends and family that cannot make it to graduation concerning the livestream:** you have two options for viewing the ceremony if you cannot be with us that day. You may log onto srbc.org and follow the livestreaming prompts 1-2 minutes before the graduation starts or you can go to the Starkey Road Baptist Church Facebook page 1-2 minutes before the ceremony and watch it live.

**Important traffic pattern information for after the ceremony:** as you exit the property onto Starkey Road please use the 86<sup>th</sup> avenue exit from the property that will take you to the traffic light. Please tell all your friends and family members.

### **Program Information and Pictures**

**Senior Biography** - (145-155 words in length, Bible verse not included in word count)

This is to introduce your senior. Include birth date/place, honors/awards, dual enrollment, job, special events, and future plans.

#### ***Sample Biography***

*Lydia Anderson was born on April 11, 2000, in St. Petersburg. Lydia treasures the little things in life such as reading classics with her family, coffee with friends, Broadway musicals, laughing till her sides hurt, getting mail, that last piece of chocolate cake, old movies, and Disney's FastPass, but most of all, quiet mornings with an open Bible on her lap. She is both a blackbelt and a ballerina, graceful yet strong, and still always running into things. She has served on two mission trips. Lydia joined the Duke TIP, Eta Sigma Alpha, and Mu Eta Alpha societies. Lydia will be attending the Honors Program at USF this fall and has been invited to the Chancellor's Leadership Council. She is double majoring in Anthropology and History. Lydia has been abundantly blessed by her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in this chapter of her life, and as she closes it, she excitedly awaits His promises ahead.*

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future." – Jeremiah 29:11*

**Parent Challenge - (150 words or less, including verse)**

This is a message from the parents to the senior. It may include a Bible verse or what you have prayed for your child. It may be inspirational or funny. It will be read aloud to your senior during the diploma/tassel moment. NOT over 150 words!

***Sample Parent Challenge***

*Lydia, my verse for you comes from the book of Malachi chapter 3.*

*Test me in this and see if I don't open up heaven itself to you and pour out blessings beyond your wildest dreams.*

*We all know that you have big dreams. Your dreams will come true if you have the courage to pursue them. Live the life you have imagined. Strive for excellence and be open to the moment that is unfolding before you. Your life is made up of moments and each one will be special.*

*You were not made to fit in but to stand out. Let not your words and actions draw attention to yourself but to God and live the kind of life that leads others to Him. Never lose your curious, adventuresome spirit, and always try to believe in at least six impossible things every day before breakfast.*

**Graduate Thank You - (75 words maximum)**

This is a thank you from the student to the parents. Please spend a few moments on writing it; your parents have invested time in your life. DO NOT ask your parents to proof it or email it. This is a surprise for them! This will be shown towards the end of the ceremony. 75 words MAX!

***Sample Graduate Thank You***

*Every time my friends say, "Wow! You sound just like your parents!" my heart swells. You are my inspiration and the glue that holds our family together. Thank you for pushing me to reach for the stars, catching me when I fall, and reminding me to fight for the good left in this world. God knew I needed you. I hope to walk in your footsteps, for they were taken in strength and dignity.*

**Senior Pictures - (5 pictures)**

This is an opportunity for the audience to watch the seniors grow up. Pictures need to be labeled with the senior's last name and number. Example - Smith01. You will need:

- A baby picture labeled #1
- 3 pictures of senior "growing up" labeled from youngest to oldest #2, #3, #4
- Senior portrait labeled #5

Please be appropriate in your picture choice. That naked baby picture might be adorable, but it is not appropriate for this occasion.

## **OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

### **Class Facebook Page**

The Class of 2026 has a Facebook page: **PPEA Class of 2026**. This is a place for you all to connect during your senior year.

- Parents are welcome to join the page.
- Parents please remember that events posted on the Facebook page are not PPEA events unless the sign-up is on the PPEA website.
- Be courteous to your classmates. Sometimes you will want to have an event where everyone is welcome. Please post those on the class Facebook page! Sometimes you will want to hang with a group of close friends. Please post those on your own page or message people privately.

Use the QR Code below to join!



### **Senior T-Shirt**

There will be a **PPEA Class of 2026 T-Shirt** available for purchase soon. Please watch the web page and your email for details.

### **Yearbook Staff**

Throughout the 2025-2026 school year we will be taking photos of your seniors for our **Class of 2026 PPEA Senior Yearbook**. Anyone who wishes to collaborate on this project should contact [graduation@myppea.com](mailto:graduation@myppea.com). Any photos that you would like to share with PPEA for potential use in the yearbook can be uploaded here:

<https://web.treering.com/school/259706/2025/school-content/school-photos/453535020>

### **High School Events**

Seniors are encouraged to join their classmates and friends for all high school and senior events. The more time you spend together, the more fun your senior year will be!

## Honors Regalia, Invitations, Diplomas, etc.

### Honors Regalia

- PPEA graduates MUST wear the official PPEA cap, gown, and tassel. These may not be substituted.
- If a student is also graduating at St. Petersburg College, they may choose to wear any honor cords they were awarded by the college.
- If a student participates in a school program, such as Chosen, Classical Conversations, or Wellmont, the school may choose a color code of honor stole for their students to wear.
- You may use any vendor you choose for honor cords and sashes.

### PPEA Honor Cord Guidelines

Stoles and cords are a part of graduation ceremonies. Below is a list of suggested guidelines adopted by the PPEA to help you as the homeschool parent determine which honor cords your child may have earned.

- **English** - White  
4 credits or more with a minimum GPA of 3.5
- **Mathematics** - Light Blue  
4 credits or more of a college- prep mathematics program (Algebra I, Geometry, Advanced Algebra (II), Pre-Calculus and/or Calculus) with a minimum GPA of 3.5
- **Honors** - Gold  
There is a chapter of the National Honor Society for homeschoolers, Eta Sigma Alpha. The requirements for can be found online. <http://www.etasigmaalpha.com/>  
There is also a chapter of the National Math Honor Society for the Homeschool Community, Mu Eta Sigma. The requirements can be found online. <https://www.mathhonorsociety.com/>
- **Science** - Burgundy  
4 credits or more of science with a minimum GPA of 3.5 including at least 2 of the following courses: Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Anatomy & Physiology
- **Social Studies** - Navy Blue  
4 credits or more with a minimum GPA of 3.5. Possible classes include: US History, Government, British History, World History
- **World Languages** - Red  
4 credits or more of the same Foreign Language with a minimum GPA of 3.
- **Fine Arts** -Forest Green  
Art: at least 3 credits with a minimum GPA of 3.5  
Music: active in a band, vocal, choir or instrumental music program for at least 3 years with a minimum GPA 3.5
- **Technology** - Copper  
3 credits or more of technology courses with a minimum GPA of 3.5
- **College Credit** - Royal Blue  
Completing college classes that result in earning college credit

- **Business** - Red, White & Blue  
3 credits earned in business classes with a minimum GPA of 3.5  
Computer classes may be counted, as well as job experience
- **Community Service:**  
Purple - 100+ Hours of Community Service  
Silver - 250+ Hours of Community Service
- **Military** - Black  
participation in ROTC, Civil Air Patrol, or similar program
- **Perseverance** - Pink  
Awarded to a student who has demonstrated perseverance

**Invitations** - You may use any invitation you wish.

- You may invite as many people as you want.
- **You may want to let your friends know to arrive early. We will close sanctuary doors to seating guests as the seniors march in. So, it is a good idea to be a little early.**
- We need to exit the church by 1:00 pm, if you wish to continue to party with your family and friends, please plan a reception at another location...and party on!

### **Diplomas**

Your student will receive a Certificate of Participation for graduation. You may use your own diploma during the ceremony if you prefer. You may use any vendor you wish for a diploma. For example, [www.homeschooldiploma.com](http://www.homeschooldiploma.com).

### **Important Contacts**

PPEA Grad Coordinator		graduation@myppea.com	
Neisha Promisco	Co-Chair	neisha@myppea.com	(727) 231-1190
Joanne Sastamoinen	Co-Chair	joanne@myppea.com	(727) 231-1178
Rob Moorman - Photographer		cameradude1@gmail.com	(727) 527-1237