

Questions and Answers on your Senior Portraits...

What about the yearbook?

Many High Schools have specific guidelines about the portraits submitted for the yearbook. Find out in advance what your school requires as far as the size, composition, and any other aspects of the portrait to be submitted.

What Should I Wear?

To have great senior pictures you will want to plan ahead. Plan your outfits, one should be more dressy or formal, another more casual, and still a third for outdoor shots. For the traditional portraits, use solid colors and no large patterns. All white is great for white backgrounds and all black is great for black backgrounds. For casual outfits, denim, white, black, and solid earth tones almost always look good. Avoid stripes, bold patterns, prints, neon colors and wording. Below are some guidelines for the guys and girls.

For the Guys...

For traditional in-studio portraits, some suggestions include: a suit or sport coat with tie, medium to dark sweaters. For casual and outdoor photos, go with your usual look – jeans and khakis, shirts and sweaters all photograph well. If you have a “trademark” look – a hat or jacket you always wear - bring it along and we’ll get some shots with you in it. Avoid t-shirts with patterns; they take away from your photograph. Sports uniforms are a good option.

For the Girls...

Bring the colors and outfits you feel best in. For some formal shots, consider bringing a dress, a sweater, even your prom dress – whatever makes you feel dressed up and special. For casual and outdoor shots, you’ll be more relaxed if your outfits are comfortable. Solids and simple patterns are also easier to photograph, so try to avoid any wild patterns.

Guidelines for slimming:

- Avoid sleeveless and spaghetti straps. Bare arms can add weight.
- Avoid really loose fitting dresses.
- Dark colors make you look slimmer. Bright or bold colors will stand out.
- Choose colors that compliment your complexion.
- Solid colors are best, patterns can look exaggerated.

Shoes and accessories

Bring shoes that go with each outfit, so we can include full body shots. For casual shots, barefoot can work too! Do a trial run of your outfits at home the day before to make sure you bring the right shoes, belt, tie, scarf, and jewelry.

Glasses

If you wear glasses all or even most of the time, you’ll want to wear them in your portraits too. The best option is to be photographed in empty frames because there is no possibility of glare

or distortion from the glass. Check with your optician about either borrowing a pair of empty frames or having the lenses temporarily removed from your glasses.

Jewelry

Flat Jewelry is bad for portraits due to reflection. Keep necklaces to a chain type and a smaller style. Don’t forget your earrings. They should go with your clothing style. Avoid large earrings. Some skin tones look better with either gold or silver, it’s your choice what looks better on you. Regarding class rings, be sure to wear your own. You should not wear a boyfriend’s or girlfriend’s class ring in your picture.

Piercings (i.e. nose rings)

Discuss piercings with your parents prior to coming in. Our assumption is that any jewelry is normal and we will never ask you to remove it.

Should I bring anything else?

These are YOUR senior portraits – bring anything that helps make them a reflection of YOU. Feel free to bring hat, sunglasses, sports equipment, uniforms, letter jacket, or your musical instrument.

What about my Hair, Make-Up, Nails, Suntan, etc.?

This isn’t as difficult as it may seem. The key is to plan ahead...

Hair

The best advice is to wear your hair the way you usually do when it looks its best. If you wear your hair differently for your photos, they won’t really be you. Don’t have anything new done to your hair – like a cut, perm or color – less than two weeks before your photo session, so it has a chance to settle in. A little hair spray isn’t a bad idea in case there’s some wind during your outdoor shots. Also, don’t change your hair after your session until you have had a chance to view your proofs. Your photographer is not a hair stylist, so I will rely on you to know what you like and do not like.

Make-up

Apply your usual cover-up to any noticeable blemishes. Don’t worry – complexion issues can also be dealt with after the fact. If you have an oily complexion, powder is a must. A matte finish is what you are looking for, it photographs much better.

You want to look your best, but also to look natural. Girls, wear your makeup as you normally do when you want to look your best. Some considerations:

- Eye makeup should be blended with no sharp lines between colors.
- Lipstick is recommended.
- Eyeliner should be minimal cause it can make the eyes look smaller.
- Mascara should be neat and without clumps.
- If foundation is used, blend at the jaw line so there is no line between the face and neck.

Nails (for guys and girls)

Your hands will definitely show in some shots. That doesn’t mean you have to get a manicure, just that you want your nails to look OK in your photos. No chipped nail polish, girls!

Suntan (or burn)

When planning your outfits, watch out for tan-lines that show. We can certainly retouch them, but that’s can be one of those extra charges that a little pre-planning can avoid. A healthy tan looks great, but please be careful in the sun the week before your photo session! If you are sunburned (or peeling), particularly in the face, it’s probably better to reschedule.

Beauty Marks (moles)

Some marks on a person’s face are a part of what makes the person unique. To prevent inadvertent removal of such a mark during retouching, please let us know if any certain marks need to stay.

Braces

If you have braces, practice normal smiling prior to your session. Many poses will be serious, but some will show teeth. Braces can be removed from portraits during retouching. Depending on the amount of work involved, a small fee may be charged.

On Location

To make your senior portraits special, we are always willing to shoot on location at outdoor locations and locations that are special to you. This could include at your home, school, or place of employment. Be sure to let us know in advance if there is someplace special you would like to use in your portraits. Please limit these areas to locations within close proximity to the Omaha Metro area.

Parents at the sessions

Parents of course are welcome to attend the sessions. However, in some instances, your child will feel more comfortable to be themselves if the parent is not in the room at the time of shooting. Please discuss this with your child. We want your child’s senior pictures to be something they cherish for life, and this requires that they be comfortable.

A Few Final Words...

The camera sees things differently than our eyes do, and freezes what it sees – forever! For this reason, here are a couple of additional tips:

- Don’t wait till the last minute to plan your outfits!
- Even if you wouldn’t normally iron a particular shirt or outfit – iron it for your photo session! The wrinkles that look fine in person don’t look good in a photo.
- Be sure that you bring all the accessories you need for each outfit – the right shoes, socks, belt, jewelry – whatever!
- Girls – feel free to bring what you might need to freshen up your hair and makeup, particularly between your outdoor and indoor sessions