

# PULLING OFF PICTURE DAY

**Check out this super annoying list of the questions that keep advisers up at night — at least the advisers who are drafted to manage picture days and makeups for their school. We're thinking this may be the tip of the iceberg, but if you're new here, it might help.**

## PICK THE BEST DAY

- ▶ What's the ideal day for picture day?  
When will the majority of students be in school. When is there NOT a spirit day that has kids dressing up?
- ▶ What's the ideal day for makeups?
- ▶ How can you get everyone's picture taken in time for your portrait pages deadline AND in time for the moms and the grandmas to get their photo packages in time for Christmas presents?
- ▶ How will you get photos of special populations within the school community? (SPED kids, seniors who aren't in school all day, kids going to a tech center, etc...)
- ▶ Do you need to worry about ID photos at the same time as regular photos?

**NOTE:** It's best to schedule picture day a year in advance, but if your day got scheduled on your behalf, think about the ideal day for next year and schedule it now!

## MAKE IT SMOOTH LIKE BUTTER

- ▶ What's the best day to let EVERYONE know when picture day will happen?
- ▶ What reminders can you send? And how many reminders do the kids need to get their hair done ahead of time?
- ▶ How can you run picture day (assuming it's not at registration) so that it's not so disruptive?
- ▶ What's the ideal location?

- ▶ How will the students get to and from the location without causing a ruckus (you know they will try)?
- ▶ Do they need passes back to class? Will teachers walk them to the photo location?
- ▶ How can you keep grade levels separate (if necessary; K-12 schools, we get you)?
- ▶ Is there room for lines and overflow/backup?
- ▶ What's the right number of camera stations to keep everything moving?
- ▶ Do you have to help organize the name cards or ID students?
- ▶ What's the best way to get the entire schedule to the faculty and staff (and make sure they read it)?
- ▶ How in the world can you convince all of the teachers to come get their photos taken?
- ▶ Can your yearbook students help with picture day?
- ▶ Can you get a sub so you can focus on a smooth picture day?
- ▶ What class period/time of day is best for NOT disrupting class?
- ▶ Can you talk an entire department into multi-tasking with you? (English teachers give up half of their class for picture day, but you could arrange it so that there was already an interruption scheduled – kids need to fill out paperwork or guidance department talks with students, for example.)
- ▶ Did you remind students to follow the dress code? What if they don't?

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**Continued**

## SPECIAL SENIOR TREATMENT

- ▶ What's the ideal deadline for senior portraits being submitted?
- ▶ How are you going to handle the seniors who either don't get photos or don't meet the deadline?
- ▶ Are their photos taken by a different photographer than your normal school photographer?
- ▶ What's the dress code for seniors?
- ▶ Is there any way you can negotiate a free sitting for students who can't afford the sitting fee?
- ▶ If COVID is an issue and they are being asked to share tux coats or drapes, how is that going to work?
- ▶ If you can't do formals, what's the fall-back plan?
- ▶ Should students and parents be allowed to submit their own formals or casuals?  
Go to [herff.ly/ybk-eshare](https://herff.ly/ybk-eshare) if you want to use eShare for accepting photos.
- ▶ Because you're already thinking about this, are you doing senior quotes again this year?
- ▶ How can you get out of doing senior quotes again this year?
- ▶ Can you replace senior quotes by printing senior accomplishments? How will you gather this information?

## BONUS IDEAS

- ▶ Can you get interviews from waiting students?
- ▶ Would it be worthwhile to have waiting students fill out a survey of some sort?
- ▶ Can you hand out flyers for book sales at picture day?
- ▶ If you are pausing mixed-level classes for underclass picture day, can you get interviews or headshots of some of the seniors on that same day?

## PHOTOGRAPHER INFO

- ▶ Make sure you are getting a PSPA/PSPI formatted set of photos for the yearbook.
- ▶ Will the photographer also take club photos or some home game photos? Many do.