

Surviving Senioritis

Mr. Michael Blewett

I can't **WAIT** for school to be over!" You've probably said that towards end of every year of every grade you've completed in school so far. It's natural and normal to want break after a long school year - especially after the last couple of "COVID years!" But when we say it before graduating high school, at the end of our senior year, it's different...it's bigger...the end of high school is so near you can taste it! This is a time for celebrating all that you've accomplished; you should be proud of yourself! So, celebrate!

But don't drop the ball just before you reach the finish line.

In 2014, a University of Utah wide receiver caught what should have been a touchdown pass. But the receiver spiked/dropped the ball **JUST BEFORE** crossing the goal line. As he celebrated in the end-zone, the other team picked up the still-live ball and ran it back 99 yards for a touchdown (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aqUUGBs0BTE>). The Utah receiver celebrated too early and didn't finish the job.

Just like that football receiver, all of you seniors will be tempted to celebrate too early and not finish strong. It's called "Senioritis." I'm not going to tell you not to get it, because I think everyone does. It's kind of like a cold virus that travels through your school; everyone gets exposed to it, lots of people get it, but only a couple people get cases so severe that it really impacts their future.

It's completely normal to look forward to the end of your high school days as you transition into the next season of your life. But there's a way to do move forward without doing damage to the very bright future that you are walking into. Here are a couple of things to keep in mind:

- ◆ Colleges and universities keep tabs on your grades and behavior between the time you get your acceptance letter and the time you start your first semester. Blowing off classes & tests in your final semester or getting in trouble pulling pranks could cost you admission to your dream school.
- ◆ The end of your senior year is the time to demonstrate and practice the discipline and maturity that employers will eventually want from you.



Michael Blewett is a north/south advisor for TRiO Talent Search. He loves making a difference in the lives and futures of students and their families!

I was raised in northern Michigan, and have lived in many locations around the country . A few years ago, I moved back "home" to Alpena.

My grandparents come to America on a boat from a poor part of Cornwall, England, and I grew up in a household with lots of love, but not much money. Getting a great education and becoming a life-long learner has been critical for opening many opportunities and giving me access to incredible experiences.

My education after high school began at Westminster Choir College (now part of Rider University), and after earning my Bachelor's degree, I did further vocal studies at the University of Michigan. After a brief career as an opera singer, I decided to go into ministry. I obtained by Master of Divinity at Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria Virginia and served in several churches around the country for 20 years.

Most recently, I have been teaching in a variety of capacities, particularly life/transition skills to our high school students with disabilities in our region. When I'm not working or traveling to our kids' sporting events, I love to cook, garden, fish, woodwork, and generally do anything outdoors.

What are some positive things you can do while senioritis is running rampant among your classmates?

◆ **Enjoy it.** Savor all those “lasts”: sports games, proms, walking down the halls with your besties, the relationships with your favorite teachers...all those memories will stick with you.

◆ **Show up.** Seriously. It’s a huge part of life. Get out of bed and make it to class. Every day...even the last day.

◆ **Ask for help.** Parents, guardians, teachers, counselors, friends...all these people love you and want the very best for you. Give them permission to hold you accountable so that you put yourself in the best position for your future.

◆ **Be proud of yourself.** Graduating high school is a huge milestone and you **SHOULD** be proud.

At the end of the race, nobody is going to care about how you started.

They care about how you finish.

Stay **Focused.** Stay **Strong.** Stay **Constant.**

And get ready to shout, from the depths of your soul, “I did it!”

TRiO Talent Search is committed to help *all* our members succeed in school.
If there is a topic that you would like more information about, please contact the TTS Office at
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