

## Senior Portraits – Preparation Guide

Portraits are best when the viewer's eye is drawn to your face. Attention must be given to all details of your entire outfit, even if you think they won't show in the final portrait. If any element of clothing is overly noticeable, it could be distracting in the final image. So please follow the tips below to ensure the best results.

### Close-Up Portraits

Dress in something very simple both in color and style. Wear long sleeves to keep the eye from being drawn to the flesh of the arms. Boys can choose a suit, sport coat, or sweater. For girls, a plain dress, sweater or blouse with a simple neckline is best.

### Clothing Color and Style

Attention must be given to all details of your entire outfit, even if you think it won't show in the final portrait. Choose clothing with solid colors and/or very small patterns. Burgundy, blue, brown, rust, and green work well. Think about how your clothing colors complement or detract from your coloring. Darker colors bring out skin tones better than lighter colors. Make sure clothing is as wrinkle-free as possible.

### Informal Poses -- Tell the World Who You Are!

If you have a hobby --- musical instrument, art supplies, theatrical garb, cheerleading, athletic, or band uniforms, pets – bring it along! Think creatively and you'll have a portrait to remember!

Informal portraits mean more variety in clothing and color. Choose a favorite sports or casual outfit, dress, prom dress, suit, shorts, jeans – clothes you really enjoy. Bring extra outfits, and we'll help you choose!

## Planning For Your Session

### Hair

For your portraits, you want your hair to look its best. We recommend that you don't try a new hairstyle just before your session, but do plan to have it cut two weeks beforehand. This gives it a chance to grow out and look natural.

### Skin Problems

Try not to worry too much if you have acne or blemishes. Retouching works wonders!

### Facial Hair

A fresh shave is a must! If you have a beard or mustache, make sure it is trimmed before your session.

### Glasses

Light reflected from a flash in eyeglass lenses can create white spots and glare, leading to extra retouching charges. And tinted lenses cannot be lightened. To reduce this occurrence, you can check to see if your lenses have a glare resistant coating. Ask your optometrist for a set of loaner frames similar to the ones you usually wear.