

MERCY STREET

studio

TWENTY

27



SENIOR PREP GUIDE

CLASSICALLY YOU



PEP TALK



LET'S BE HONEST for a moment: senior photos aren't always something teenage boys circle on the calendar with excitement. And that's okay. If your son is excited about it, wonderful. If he's not quite sure how he feels about the idea yet, that's okay too.

What we've found after photographing thousands of seniors is that those first few minutes pass quickly. Soon we're talking about the things that make your son who he is - the sports he loves, the music he listens to, the hobbies that fill his time - and that's where the portraits begin to take shape

Most importantly, please don't worry. We'll guide you through everything. Our goal isn't just for you to walk away with great photos, it's for the whole experience to be easy, relaxed, confidence-building, and honestly... pretty fun.

Erin, Cathi, & Lia

Senior Photography Team
Mercy Street Studio





THE CLASSIC

NO GUESSES. NO FINE PRINT.

Here's what your Classic Session includes:

- One full hour of photography
- Multiple outfit changes
- A local location of your choosing
- Professionally edited online gallery of 30 or more images, delivered within two weeks
- Sibling, best friend, and family shots included at no extra charge (up to six people total).
- A sneak peek on social media within 24 hours of your session (if you want one)
- A pre-session prep guide (you are reading it right now)

HOW IT WORKS.

We meet at your shoot location at an agreed upon time (around an hour before sunset). We take pictures of you (it's fun), we give you lots of guidance and posing/unposing tips so your photos look natural and effortless.

The next day we post a sneak peek because you'll be dying to see at least one shot from your session :-)



Within two weeks we'll email you the link to your entire gallery. You will have one week to choose the ones you want. Once you purchase your digital images your download link arrives within minutes.





ARRIVE IN STYLE



YOUR PERSONAL STYLE IS OUR FAVORITE LOOK

How many outfits:

- three (ideally) - these can be shirt changes if he wears neutral bottoms.

What photographs well:

- color, patterns, textures, layers
- yes to the above. read it again.
- clothing that fits well & feels good
- clothing that you love
- classic colors

What to leave at home:

- large logos
- neon or extremely bright colors
- gym shorts
- anything you haven't tried on
- clothing with stains, wrinkles, missing buttons, broken zippers.

Details that matter:

- Shave 12-24 hours before session (not 10 minutes before)
- Don't try a drastic hair change or new barber before your session
- Don't get sunburned before your session.
- Iron your clothing & bring shirts on hangers.



DON'T STRESS, JUST DO YOUR BEST.



ON LOCATION



SEACOAST LOCATIONS WE LOVE:

- Rocky shorelines, sandy beaches.
- Portsmouth: Gardens, waterfront, cafes
- Waterfront forts (our favorite for guys!)
- Downtown: Dover, Portsmouth, Kittery
- Your marina/boat/golf course/school
- Places that mean something to you (your own backyard, a favorite trail, your home field)

If you have somewhere in mind, tell us. We'll give you our honest opinion.

THREE THINGS TO REMEMBER:

1. We look at locations differently than you do. You might not see potential in something we can make magical.
2. Good lighting makes a location work.
3. No matter where we go, you are the subject. The location is just the frame.





some portraits are better with the people who got you here

(they don't have to stay for the whole thing)



Senior sessions are about you, but the people who love you are part of your story too. Including them costs nothing* extra and creates some of the most treasured portraits.



*SESSION FEE INCLUDES UP TO 6 PEOPLE





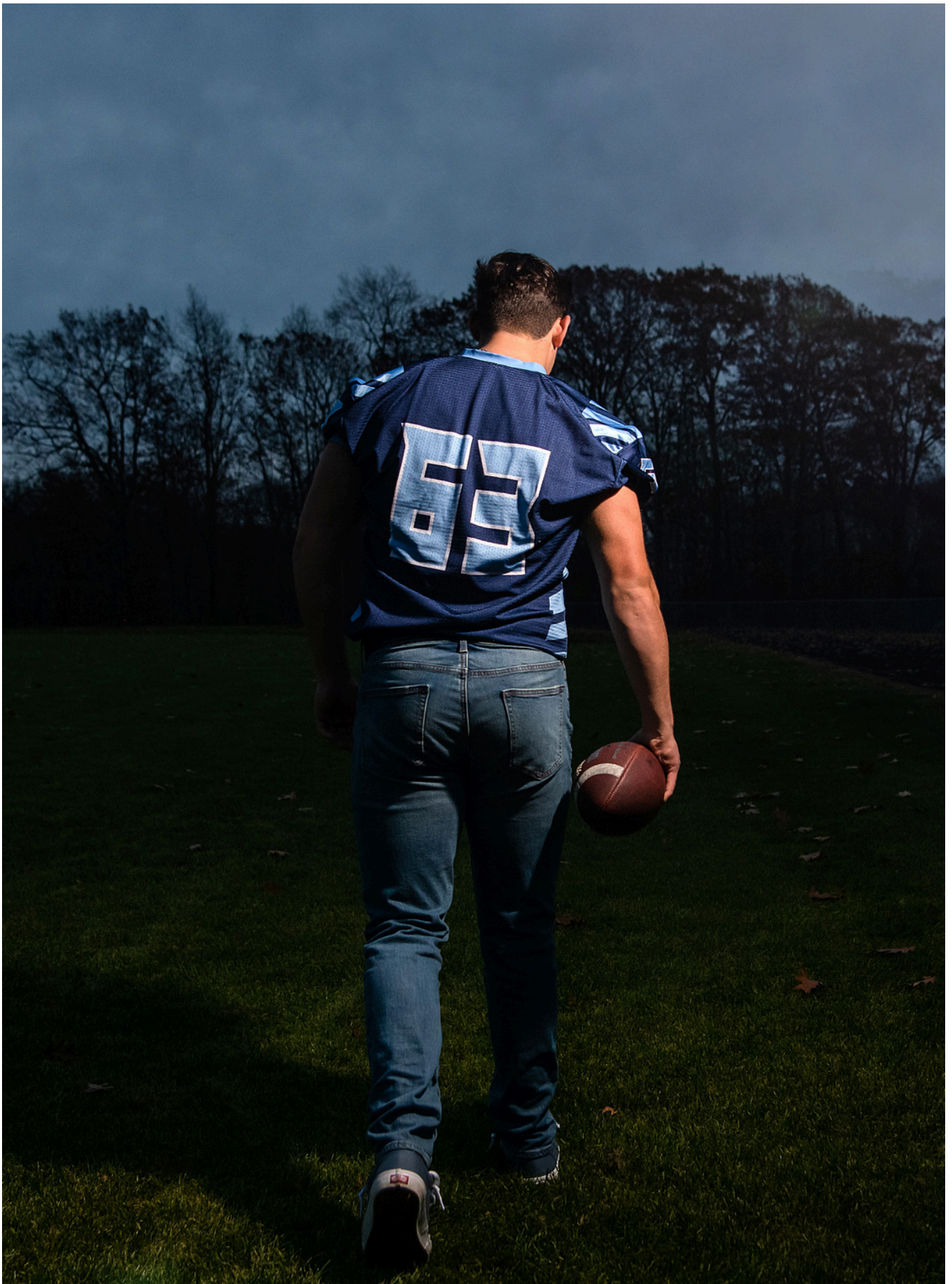
Your Signature Shot

LET'S MAKE A PHOTO THAT IS ALL YOU

What makes a great Signature Shot:

- Your sport: cleats, stick, glove, racket, jersey, ball, puck
- Your instrument: the guitar, trumpet, drums
- Your art: a sketchbook, a canvas, the ceramics wheel, the darkroom
- Your passion project: your camera, your beekeeping suit, your medals
- Your animal: your dog, your OG

If it matters to you, it belongs in your session.



Family and signature shots do not take over the session. Your classic portraits are still the main event. We save the last few minutes specifically for this, and the result is something completely different from anything else in your gallery.

Think of it as the exclamation point at the end of the sentence.

THE PRE-SHOOT CHECKLIST

FOR THE PLANNERS, THE PROCRASTINATORS, AND EVERYONE IN BETWEEN.

A little prep goes a long way toward a relaxed, confident session day.
Here is everything you need to do and when to do it.

One Week Out

- Haircut (give it a few days to settle before your session)
- Try on every outfit
- Steam or press anything that needs it and hang it up
- Give us a heads-up if your location ideas have changed
- Optional: Think through your Signature Shot; let us know what you're bringing

The Night Before

- Review outfits (leave on hangers) & pack everything else in a bag
- Confirm your session time and location/meeting details on email.
- GPS the location so you know what time to leave
- Shave, drink plenty of water & get a good night of sleep
- Remind your forever people what time to show up (if applicable)

Day-Of Bag

- All outfits, hung or neatly folded
- A brush or comb
- Props or gear for your Signature Shot
- A water bottle





AFTER THE SESSION

SNEAK PEEKS
GALLERIES
ORDERING
& OTHER STUFF

The session is done, the golden hour is gone, and you are probably already looking at your phone hoping we snuck a shot onto Instagram. Here is exactly what happens next.

The 24-hour sneak peek.

Within 24 hours(ish) of your session we will post a sneak peek on our social media. Follow us at @mercystreetstudio so you do not miss it, and tag us when you share it. We will cheer you on.

Your gallery.

Your edited gallery of 30 or more images will be delivered within two weeks of your session. You will get an email with a private link. Pull it up at home and choose your favorites to purchase.

Can not wait two weeks?

We get it. Add our Fast Track option at booking and your gallery arrives within 48 hours of your session. Fast Track is \$50 and can be added any time before your session date.



Ordering from your gallery.

Your gallery stays open for one week. That gives you and your family plenty of time to go through everything and decide what you love. Prints and digital images are available to purchase directly through the gallery. Once you purchase digital images, your download link arrives within minutes.

Need a little more time?

We can extend your gallery for an additional two weeks for \$25. Just let us know before it closes and we will take care of it.





Good Questions



What if it rains on my session day?

If there is severe weather, we reschedule at no charge, no drama, no lost fees. Light clouds or a little wind? Usually totally workable and honestly sometimes magical. We will make the call together **on the day of your session.**

How long is the actual session?

One hour. We schedule during golden hour so timing is intentional. One hour is plenty of time to get a full range of portraits across multiple outfits and looks, and we always move with purpose.

Will I have to know how to pose?

No. Not even a little. Directing you is literally our job and we are very good at it. We will walk you through every moment. Just show up and move naturally. We are genuinely good at making people feel at ease. The nerves are normal. They go away fast.

My senior is nonbinary, LGBTQ+, neurodivergent, disabled, non-traditional, etc...

We are a safe space for every person. We love you as you are, we'll try to use your preferred pronouns and adapt to whatever your needs and preferences are during your session. Just let us know. We love you.

Can I print the pictures on my own?

Once you purchase your digital images, they are yours to print and share.



THAT'S IT.



THE ONLY THING LEFT TO DO
IS SHOW UP AND HAVE FUN.



**FEEL FREE TO
REACH OUT IF YOU
HAVE QUESTIONS.**

ERIN@MERCYSTREETSTUDIO.COM
CATHI@MERCYSTREETSTUDIO.COM
LIA@MERCYSTREETSTUDIO.COM

