

## **How to Look Your Best!**

A guide to making your senior session fun and your senior portraits Awesome.

Portraits are best when the viewer's eye is drawn to your face. Unless you choose your clothing carefully, it's possible for the viewer's eye to be diverted to the clothing.

### **Close-Up Portraits**

For your yearbook picture or other head-and-shoulders or close-up poses, dress in something very simple both in color and style. Boys can choose a suit, sport coat, or sweater. For girls, a plain dress, sweater or blouse with a simple neckline is best. Both boys and girls should wear long sleeves to keep the eye from being drawn to the flesh of the arms.

### **Clothing Color and Style Make the Difference!**

Proper clothing allows the face to dominate the portrait, with all other elements being secondary. Against a medium or dark background, colors that photograph best for the yearbook portrait and other close-up poses are medium to dark tones of green, brown, rust, wine, or blue. Darker shades are more slimming.

Against a medium or dark background, avoid light colors the approximate flesh tones such as beige, tan, peach, pink, white, and yellow. These colors not only dominate a portrait and overpower the face, but also drain color from the face and make the wearer appear unusually pale.

Bare shoulders or tops with "spaghetti straps" often make the subject look heavier and take the eye away from the face.

Especially bright colors such as red, orange, or pink will ruin a portrait because their intensity overwhelms the face.

Stripes, plaids, checks, and bold prints also draw the eye away from the face and do not photograph well.

### **Informal Poses and Special Styles tell the World Who You Are!**

Informal portraits invite much more variety in clothing, color, and style. Girls can choose a favorite sports outfit, dress, prom dress, shorts, jeans outfit – the colors you really enjoy. Possible choices for boys include a suit, jeans outfit, a casual or sports outfit, or a school or other jacket. Bring extra outfits, and we'll help you choose!

Seniors who like our white-on-white portraits should bring a white or very pale pastel outfit. Black is a good choice for black-and-white portraits or for a dramatic look in color.

### **Express Yourself And Your World!**

If you have a hobby, then bring it along! Musical instruments, art supplies, theatrical garb, cheerleading or athletic uniforms, band uniforms, stuffed animals, skateboards, pets, girlfriends, boyfriends, and buddies. Think creatively and you'll have a portrait to remember!

### **Enjoy the Fun of an Outdoor Session**

Bring a casual outfit that will blend with natural outdoor settings. Earth tones are an excellent choice. Also remember that simple styles photograph best. If you have an outdoor hobby or interest – backpacking or jogging for example – bring your gear. We'll also be happy to photograph you with your car, bike, or motorcycle.

