It seems like the big day will never arrive. After all, dozens of pages still need to be completed, and even more pages of proofs need to be checked. However, before you know it, a truckload of precious cargo will soon be arriving at your school. From breakfasts to picnics, cruises to fire drills, assemblies to dances – staffs from coast to coast are turning yearbook distribution into a SPECIAL DELIVERY.

Make yearbook distribution an event to remember.
students raced into the halls and out the doors. This was in the local newspaper telling students to pick up their books. These arrived after the school year was over, forcing staffers to run an ad to deliver them. “Almost 40 years of full color with the revenue we have made from it,” said adviser Candace Vickers. “This event has been well received. We have been able to add more pages of full color with the revenue we have made from it.”

A four-alarm event

_distribution_2000_at_Jenkins_High_School_was_a_four-alarm_event. In previous years, distribution was uneventful. Yearbooks were delivered after the school year was over, forcing staffers to run an ad in the local newspaper telling students to pick up their books. This year, the books arrived before school was out, and students were excited. The event was known as “SPECIAL DELIVERY.”

A Friday dance party

_A Friday night distribution event doubles as a fundraiser at Valley High School._

A three-day event

distribution_day_one_features_a_reception_at_an_evening_school_board_meeting_completing_it_with_food_and_refreshments. School administrators and school board members each receive a complimentary, personalized yearbook.

First things first

With the help of the faculty, yearbooks at Shelton High School are distributed during class. Some teachers distribute the books at the beginning of the hour, others make their students wait until the end. Beginning or end, the entire process takes about 10 minutes. After the first period, the school cancels lunch to allow students to attend an evening yearbook signing party. Seniors get in free. This party gives students a chance to get their yearbooks and staff members a chance to sell food and refreshments. The remaining books are distributed during lunch and advisement periods. The remaining books are distributed during lunch and advisement periods.
Dressed as clowns, the yearbook editors...
"Barker Day"
@
Bradford High School, Bradford, PA

"Barker Day" (as in the name of the yearbook) is a memorable event at Bradford High School. The morning starts with a fundraising jog-a-thon sponsored by the physical education department. By early afternoon, seniors and underclassmen gather for an all-school assembly. Parents and community members attend, too.

“We introduce the yearbook staff to the school,” say co-advisers Susan Evans and Kathy Kresge. “We have 1,000 kids on campus so not everyone knows who is on staff.”

“The Barker Day assembly is the only time our yearbook kids get that kind of recognition.”

A slide show presentation, complete with music, adds the perfect touch to the festivities. Staffers read copy from some of the yearbook sections as slides are displayed. After distribution, kids have 45 minutes to sign each other's books. Later that evening, the senior staff is honored at a special dinner. Staffers draw names beforehand and swap small gifts that relate to a funny incident about yearbook.

All aboard
@
Bradford, RI

The yearbook made a big splash at William M. Davies Jr. Career and Technical High when the senior class adviser decided to hold its long-standing breakfast event on board the Narragansett Bay cruise liner, known as the Bay Queen. This seniors-only event occurs the day after seniors complete their final exams.

“It's a great way to celebrate,” says adviser Paula Rice. “We get about an 80 percent turnout, even though seniors pay $13 to attend.”

Dining bay-side isn't the only treat for these seniors. Underclassmen pick up their yearbooks the following day, in school, during lunch.

The breakfast is for seniors only.

A yearbook house party
@
Tiverton, RI

The members of the yearbook staff are the first to see their publication at Tiverton High School. And adviser Jean Souza makes the event special by hosting a staff party at her home.

“T he kids get to look through the book and the comments are priceless,” says Souza. “They exclaim, 'Look! That was my page.'”

Seniors receive their yearbooks at the senior banquet. The banquet honors senior yearbook staff members, and this year two special guests were invited — Mr. & Mrs. John Berg. The Bergs started teaching in the 1930s and were featured in the yearbook because it traced the history of the schools in Tiverton.

First class tradition
@
Mashpee, MA

Being first comes naturally to seniors at Mashpee High School. The seniors-only event occurred the day after seniors completed final exams — an early graduation ceremony.

“Jen, the sports layout you designed looks great!”

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It’s not unusual to see police officers cooking hot dogs.

On May 31, 2000, seniors at Sandwich High School gathered on the lawn for two hours for a cookout and to receive their yearbooks. In addition to receiving and signing yearbooks, teachers and administrators were honored. The event attracted parents and community members including police officers who cooked hamburgers and hot dogs.

Take the books and load them into the bus,” says adviser Lauri Davidson. “We post alphabetical listings in the windows — ‘A to B’, ‘C to D’ — so students who are prepaid know what line to stand in.”

Before the students arrive to pick up their books, Davidson hosts a pizza party for her staff to ensure high-octane energy for their bus-distribution efforts.

During the last two hours of school on a day in May, students are released by class. Seniors go first, then juniors, sophomores, and finally freshmen. Students must show their receipts or they must be on the list generated from the yearbook staff’s sales receipt book. Students who haven’t yet purchased a book can do so at the Student Store, too.

Hot dogs and yearbooks

@ Sandwich High School, Sandwich, MA

“A lot of people have come to expect to see police officers cooking hot dogs at Sandwich High School’s senior picnic,” says adviser Carole Antis. “Kids, parents and dignitaries alike feast on chips, salsa and cake. Afterwards, they spend the afternoon out on the grass, signing books, as the music blares.

“So many kids come up to me during Senior Week and say that the picnic is the best day of their week,” says Antis. “It allows them to see kids that they have not been as close with, as well as their best friends. They don’t want to leave.”

A community celebration

@ East Clarendon High School, Turbeville, SC

“Yearbook distribution is a community event at East Clarendon High School. Everyone from clerks at the local IGA grocery store, to parents, friends and former graduates attend the all-school assembly. At the assembly, Senior Hall of Fame honorees are announced and books are distributed. But the showstopper is the annual slide show.

“The show has become more technologically advanced over the past four years that I have been on staff,” says adviser Ashleigh Kemp. “My first year we sent the slides off to be developed. To save money, it evolved into a staff-made video, in which we set up a camera and shot selected photos. This year we scanned all of the photos into Corel Presentations and used different fades and identifiers for each picture. It’s great.”

The slide show highlights events such as the homecoming parade and football games, but it also includes fun photos of students making strange faces at the camera and more poignant photos of emotional moments. Music plays a key role. Students sign books during class time rather than having a separate autographing party.

The picnic is the favorite day of senior week.

The last dance

@ Black Hills High School, Olympia, WA (Tumwater, WA)

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A party for each class

@ Crockett Middle School, Amarillo, TX

The PTA pulls out all the stops to make yearbook distribution a fun event at Crockett Middle School.

“Our PTA hosts a separate signing party for each grade level — sixth, seventh, and eighth,” says adviser Monica Tucker. “They provide pizza, candy and drinks for the students. We have a CD player for music, and parents decorate the room.”

The yearbooks might be distributed and signed; however, some of the finishing tasks are the most important.

Deposit income immediately to avoid theft. • Clean up. • Write thank-you notes to everyone outside the staff who helped.

Make notes on what to do differently next year. • Pay for any special services or entertainment. • Celebrate your success as a staff.