

MERCY STREET STUDIO

SENIORS

Class of 2026



5 STYLE
MISTAKES
TO AVOID

6 FUN LOCATION
IDEAS FOR
YOUR SESSION

PEP TALK

**IT'S GOING TO BE BETTER THAN
OKAY - IT'S GOING TO BE AWESOME!**

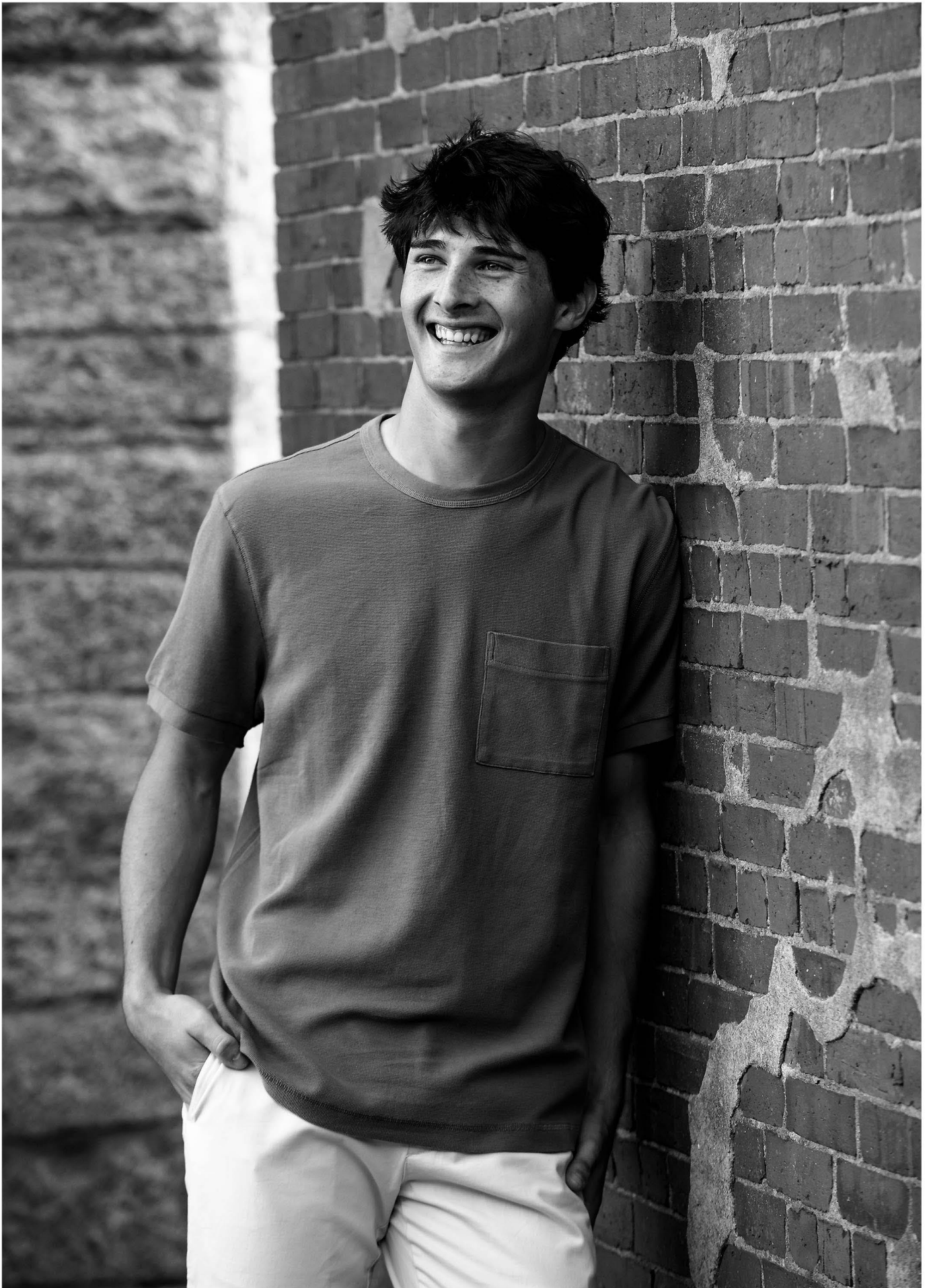
LET'S BE HONEST *your son may be apprehensive about a photoshoot. That's pretty typical. If your son is looking forward to this, hooray! We are going to have a blast! However, after photographing thousands of teenagers we can say that many guys do not love the idea of a photoshoot. It's okay. But here's a secret: they often end up enjoying it. And they always appreciate having the photos, and this appreciation grows as time passes.*

This guide is for you, the parent that has to gently guide a senior through this important rite of passage. We want you to know we've seen it all, including moms who have shown up to sessions with tear stained cheeks because their sons were tough/moody/etc before the shoot. Good, sweet, kids.

It's all okay.

If your son isn't into it, we recommend that you choose outfits for him. If he's picky about fashion, let him choose. Many boys approach senior pictures with complete apathy; for them it's like putting on scuba gear to go scuba diving. They don't want to have to make choices or think about fashion. (We'll talk more about outfits later).

Finally, don't worry. Please express any concerns you have, we're here for you. Our goal is not only for you to have the very best senior portraits, but for your son to have a fun and memorable experience to kick off a great senior year!



LOCATION:

SIX FUN SENIOR PHOTO SHOOT LOCATION IDEAS

LOOKING for a unique location ideas? Aside from our normal coastal areas, below are a few lesser known options for your consideration. We see locations differently, even if you can't picture it, we can usually make magic happen! You can also see some locations on our FB page under our "location" photo album.

DOWNTOWN.

Coastal cities offer the best of everything and no two shoots are the same! Portsmouth & Dover have a ton of options and are probably our favorite places to shoot.

YOUR FIELD

Your field may be in yards, it may be a diamond, it may have lanes, it may be the beach, it may be a bookstore. Your field is where you spend your time exercising your passions, and we'd love to photograph you there!

THE FORTS.

A location that's very "New England" is our awesome, seaside historic forts. These happen to be great photography locations as well!

A MARINA.

We are blessed to live on the seacoast where many of us enjoy boating. Shooting on a boat or at a marina is a lot of fun and makes for great pictures!

INDUSTRIAL PARKS.

Yes! They have gorgeous landscapes! They're usually vacant on evenings & weekends, providing a great opportunity for photoshoots!

ON CAMPUS.

Most colleges and schools have great buildings and landscaped areas that are perfect for a senior photo session. Even your own high school campus can be beautiful through our lens!





STYLING:

THE 5 SENIOR SESSION MISTAKES TO AVOID

1 WEARING THE WRONG OUTFIT.

Experts say that fashion is the #1 determining factor of male attractiveness in photos (who knew?). For great photos, make sure clothing is fitted and suited to your body shape and type. Do not wear clothing that is too big or too small. Please avoid neon colors and large logos. Most guys do jeans or khakis with a few different shirt options. Layers are great. Adding a jacket or sweater to a button down shirt is easy and stylish!

2 DRASTIC HAIR CHANGE.

Your hair plays an important role in your overall look and if you decide to get a haircut or try a new hairstyle too close to your senior session, you could end up with photos that don't feel like you.

3 SHAVING RIGHT BEFORE THE SESSION.

Shaving can be rough on skin and can leave knicks. Try to shave at least 12-24 hours before your session (depending on the rate of hair growth). This will give your skin time to "calm down" and heal (if necessary) before your session.

4 GETTING TOO MUCH SUN BEFORE YOUR SESSION.

Having a summer glow is great, but don't overdo it by getting too tan or sunburned right before your senior session. Skin tone should look healthy and natural.

5 WRINKLES & STAINS.

Clothing that is wrinkled or stained is not recommended for photoshoot. You really want to present your best self. Please do not assume we will "photoshop" things that are avoidable (ie: wrinkles and stains). We actually don't photoshop wrinkles. An iron and a hanger will be your best bet.



“Thank you so much for
photographing [my son] yesterday.

He was a bit nervous, but then came
home telling me how much fun it was
and he was flattered that you told him
he was photogenic.

What a great photo! He's very happy
with it and truly had a great time. I
think it was a nice ego boost for him:)

You are a talented, kind and generous
person. Thanks again.”

-L.L. (class of 2022 mom)



INCORPORATE HIS PASSION

GO PRO

WHY HIRE A PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHER FOR YOUR SENIOR SESSION?

BECAUSE *we are really good at this, and you deserve the best.*

But also, it's your senior year, which is a very special time in your life. And while you could probably get a friend or family member to snap a half decent photo, they won't be able to produce what a professional can.

With a professional photographer, you get the benefit of years of training and experience, which includes knowing how to work with all types of lighting, how to optimally shoot a location, how to pose according to body type, how to balance color and compose great shots. Not to mention the fact that we are skilled editors so you'll look like your best self in every photo.

These images will last a lifetime. Unlike phone pictures, they're high resolution so you can print them, give them as gifts, use in the yearbook, create grad banners, and they will be the ones you look back on and share with your kids some day. (They'll probably make fun of your outfit).

If you're reading this, you already know how important this is. You da bomb.

& ANOTHER THING:

MAKE IT YOURS

INCORPORATE PASSIONS.

If your son has a passion, please feel free to bring something that represents that passion to his shoot (even if you have to sneak it into the car). Instruments, sporting equipment, a special car or animal (no snakes please). He may not be receptive to the idea, but sometimes they become more receptive once we get going.

GRAB A FAMILY PICTURE.

There is no additional cost to incorporate family pictures (or sibling, or that special someone) into your son's senior portrait session. In fact, it tends to get more difficult to get everyone together once they graduate, so this is a great time to make it happen!



INCLUDE THE FAMILY



THE EDITING PROCESS

During the editing process, we will touch up each photo and remove blemishes. In the case of severe acne we may offer additional editing options.

YOUR PHOTOS

We will load your images onto an online gallery within 2 weeks. Here you can order them as prints or digital images.

In a rush? There is a \$50 fee for rush service (24-48 hours).

Most of our clients choose a digital image package so they can print images whenever they want, and use them in the future for gifts, holiday cards or graduation announcements.



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