



**Westside Secondary School
Grad 2025 Newsletter – February**

January 31

February 3

April 4

June 4

Baby Photo Deadline tnelson@sd73.bc.ca

Grad Photo retakes

Fees Deadline (all outstanding fees must be settled)

Commencement Ceremony at McArthur Island Arena 7:00pm

Mandatory Rehearsal 12:10pm (bus from school)

Grad Banquet 4:00pm

Cap & Gown prep, line up for ceremony 6:00pm

The most up-to-date information is posted on the Grad Info Google Classroom ghcrag5.

Parent emails can be added to receive updates too.

Grads should turn on notifications to be alerted for polls to vote for your grad song, valedictorian, teacher ushers, and toasts.

The BIG DAY is Wednesday June 4th! Timeline:

1. **Mandatory Rehearsal for all students** 12:10pm. We will board buses right at the end of lunch (11:48) and travel to McArthur Island Park Arena. ***Students are not permitted to drive themselves.*** Students will be dismissed upon return to the school by bus.
2. Staff and Student Grad Banquet 4:00-5:30pm at The Dunes.
3. **Arrive at McArthur Island Park Arena 6:00pm to get ready** (and so family can get seats). Prep caps, gowns, and stoles, and line up in order.
4. Commencement ceremony starts 7:00pm.
 - This is not a ticketed event. There are no restrictions on the number of seats per student. The whole family is welcome!

Commencement Fee

- Commencement fee is \$125. Please pay using SchoolCash Online, or by cash or cheque at the school's main office. The fee covers:
 - Cap, gown, and stole package,
 - The costs of the commencement ceremony,
 - Banquet before the ceremony.
- All fees are due Friday, April 4th.
- All outstanding school fees must be paid in full to participate in the Commencement Ceremony.

Cap, Gown, & Stole package will be available for pickup mid-May. Fees must be paid. We strongly recommend you hang them up right away and steam or iron to remove wrinkles for the commencement ceremony.

Baby Photo

We have a tradition of showing a slideshow of grads baby photos during the Commencement Ceremony. Deadline to submit a photo (infant to pre-school age) to the office was January 31. **If you have not sent in a photo, please do so ASAP.**

- Email a digital or scanned photo (JPG, JPEG or PNG file type with the file name: lastname_firstname.jpg) to tnelson@sd73.bc.ca.
- If you are unable to scan the image, please bring the photo to the main office; we can scan it for you.

Grad Portraits

Grad portraits are now available for purchase if the \$40 sitting fee has been paid. The first round was Nov. 19-22 and retakes were Feb. 3rd.

Website: <https://www.rightphotography.com/>

Scholarship Information

If you do not already have a copy of the Scholarship Guidelines and Information, you can contact Ms. Carlson in the counseling office jucarlson@sd73.bc.ca. In addition, be sure to check out the School District #73 scholarships and bursaries page:

<https://www.sd73.bc.ca/en/community-parents-and-students/scholarships-bursaries.aspx>

Safe Grad/Grand March & Prom

The Safe Grad/Grand March & Prom events are organized by the Parent Safe Grad Committee and not in any way affiliated with the school. Please reach out to wssgrad2025@gmail.com.

Graduation Requirements

- 1. The student must be on track to complete all graduation requirements.**
- 2. All outstanding fees must be paid, including the commencement fee.**
- 3. All Library fees must be paid and library books returned.**

To be eligible to participate in the Commencement Ceremony, a student must be on track to complete provincial graduation requirements by the end of their grade 12 year. At the end of Term 3, there will be an adjudication of any students in grade 12 with failing grades.

Administration, in consultation with counselors and teachers, will conduct this process. Failing students will be warned formally as part of this process. Students will have until the last week of April to improve any failing marks. Students who are still failing at the end of April will not be permitted to participate in the Commencement Ceremony. All decisions regarding a student being removed from the list will include parent consultation.