



Westsyde Secondary School Grad 2021 Newsletter

January 11 – 29	Keeper Grad Gowns available in office - \$35
January 16 - 29	Sign up for Grad Photos
February 1 – 5	Grad Photos, Room 2 (sign up information below)
February 22	Grad Photo Retakes
May 14	Fees Deadline (all outstanding fees)
TBD – Commencement Date	

Commencement Information

At this time, we are awaiting direction from Public Health officials regarding how Graduation Ceremonies may proceed this year. We understand that it is frustrating to have a lack of concrete information to be able to share with you regarding your Graduation. Although we are currently experiencing planning limitations with the health orders/measures that are in place across B.C., please know that your Graduation is important to us, too. We look forward to celebrating your amazing educational journey with you as a student of the Westsyde Secondary Grad Class of 2021. We will share commencement ceremony details with you as quickly as they are available to us.

Graduation Requirements

In order to be eligible to participate in the Commencement Ceremony, a student must complete graduation requirements by the end of his or her grade 12 year. At the end of Quarter 3, there will be an adjudication of any students in grade 12 with failing grades. Administration, in consultation with counsellors 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 May to improve any failing marks. Students who are still failing at the end of May will not be permitted to participate in the Commencement Ceremony. All decisions regarding a student being removed from the list will include parent consultation.

Requirements to participate in the Commencement Ceremony

- The Graduate must be completing all graduation requirements.
- All outstanding school fees must be paid, including Ceremony fee.
- All Library fees must be paid and library books must be returned.

Grad Fees

Based on changing circumstances, our school grad fees for 2021 are undetermined at this time. Typically, grad fees cover the following items:

- Commencement costs including your graduation gown, memento grad cap and tassel, graduation certificate, composite photo, and commencement ceremony photo.
- All other commencement costs including decorations, flowers, tickets, programs, photographer, videographer, and video.
- Special gift for our grads.
- Grad fees are due into the office by May 14, 2021. Once determined, Grad fees must be paid in full to participate in the Commencement Ceremony.

Keeper Grad Gown fee - \$35

- Keeper Grad Gowns will be available for purchase January 11th. **The Keeper Grad Gown is required for Grad Photos.** The photographer cannot use his gowns this year due to COVID.
- Students will also receive their grad cap and V-stoles. *WSS will hang on to the tassels until the commencement ceremony.* The photographer will have access to tassels for use in the Grad Photos.

Keeper Cap and Gown Care

- Iron & hang gown prior to photos
- Please keep items safely stored for June Ceremony
- There will be no extra caps, gowns or stoles.

Grad Photo Information

Grad photos will be taken during the week of February 1 – 5th in Room 2.

Graduates will be able to sign up for Grad Photo appointments online. We will be using the same program (PTCFast) that we have used in the past for Parent-Teacher-Student Interviews. Grads can sign up directly using the following link: https://ptcfast.com/schools/WSS_GRAD. This link will also be available on our school website. Please ensure that only one appointment time is booked per graduate.

Grad photos are available for purchase. They are also used for class composite purposes so **all Grads should have their photo taken, even if you do not plan on purchasing a photo package.** The sitting fee is \$30 is to be paid directly to photographer on the day of your pictures.

Important message from Right Photography

- The sitting fee is \$30. Grads will receive 8x10 diploma folder, 8x10 mini composite, and a 5x7 photo from the convocation ceremony.
- Grads will need to come in 10 minutes prior to their appointment, they will be putting on and taking off their own gowns and sashes to minimize all contact when having their photos done.
- Please wear dress clothes under your gown (i.e. blouse, shirt and tie). No t-shirts please.
- NO pets – sorry, with COVID-19 pre-cautions it's very difficult.
- Small props that can be held – we need to stay touchless with everything
- There will be no diploma photos – again...touchless
- We are taking 8 poses this year

www.rightphotography.com



Scholarship Information

If you do not already have a copy of the Scholarship Guidelines and Information, you can contact Mrs. Lapeyre in the counselling office. In addition, be sure to check out the School District #73 Booklet page found at:

<https://www.sd73.bc.ca/en/community-parents-and-students/scholarships--bursaries.aspx?mid=16171>

Baby Photos

We will be putting together a slideshow to use during our Commencement Ceremony, which includes baby photos of our Grads. Please submit your photo (infant to pre-school age) to the main office by April 1st. This can be done by emailing a digital or scanned photo (minimum size 55px by 500 px, JPEG or PNG file type with the file name: lastname_firstname.jpg) to tparenteau@sd73.bc.ca. If you are unable to scan the image, we can do it for you. Please bring the photo to the main office where we will scan it for you while you wait!

Safe Grad/Grand March & Prom

The Safe Grad/Grand March & Prom events are organized by the Parent Safe Grad Committee.

Grads of 2021 are in need of a Safe Grad/Grand March & Prom Chair to commence this years efforts. Please contact the school if you are interested.

Class of
2021

