



# Westsyde Secondary School

## Grad 2021 Newsletter

Grads of 2021

Message from the principal:

Graduates of 2021. As we enter the final quarter of school and your final few months here at Westsyde Secondary, now is the time to really focus on your education. There will be other distractions and you will be tempted to put less emphasis on your education. Please don't! It will make a difference for scholarships, post secondary programs, and your own sense of pride for a job well done. I look forward to seeing you cross the stage in June and embark on your career after high school. Good luck and keep working hard.

<p><b>Important Dates</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>April 19<sup>th</sup>-April 23<sup>rd</sup></b>— Application forms for Valedictorian accepted</li> <li>▪ <b>April 26-April 29<sup>th</sup></b>-Grad vote for Valedictorian and Grad Song</li> <li>▪ <b>April 26<sup>th</sup>-April 30<sup>th</sup></b>— Sign-up for appointments for Commencement 2021</li> <li>▪ <b>April 30<sup>th</sup></b>-Valedictorian announced</li> <li>▪ <b>April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021</b>— Scholarship Deadline</li> <li>▪ <b>May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021</b>— Final deadline to pay grad fees and all other outstanding fees</li> <li>▪ <b>May 26-28<sup>th</sup> — Appointments for Commencement 2021</b>              Wednesday-Friday: 9:00 am-4:00 pm              Friday: 9:00 am-12:30 pm</li> </ul>
<p><b>Signing up for Commencement appointments</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Graduates will be able to sign up for Commencement appointments beginning April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 9:00 am and ending April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 3:00 pm. The link for sign-up will be on the WSS homepage at <a href="https://ptcfast.com/schools/WSS_GRAD">https://ptcfast.com/schools/WSS_GRAD</a>. We will be using the same program (PTCFast) that we use for Parent-Teacher Interviews.</li> <li>▪ Please ensure that only one appointment time is booked per graduate.</li> <li>▪ From that link, you will find dates available from May 26<sup>th</sup>-May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Please book a time that works for your family. Times are available as posted above.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Grad fees</b></p>	<p>The school grad fee is <b>\$40.00</b> and covers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ All commencement costs including your graduation certificate, composite photo, and commencement ceremony photo.</li> <li>▪ Additional commencement costs including decorations, flowers, staging costs, tickets, and programs</li> <li>▪ Special gift for our grads</li> <li>▪ Grad fees are due into the office by May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at the latest and upon pick-up of tickets.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Commencement 2021 Ceremony: How it will look</b></p>	<p>This year, our commencement ceremony will occur individually per family by booking an appointment. Each graduate and their family will have the opportunity to celebrate this amazing milestone in ten-minute intervals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Immediate family living in the same household</b> are welcome to attend and watch your Grad cross the stage and receive their Commencement Certificate and scholarship awards if applicable.</li> <li>▪ <b><u>A maximum of 6 family members will be permitted to enter the Commencement Ceremony.</u></b> Guest attendance is strictly limited as SD73 and our school is committed to maintaining a healthy and safe environment for all students, families, and staff in attendance. It is critical that we adhere to Public Health Orders.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b><u>Everyone entering the WSS Commencement 2021 Ceremony must wear a non-medical mask at all times for the duration of their time inside the gymnasium at WSS.</u></b></li> <li>▪ <b><u>Physical distancing (2 m) will be practiced between the graduate/their families and staff at all times.</u></b></li> <li>▪ You are welcome to take pictures at any time during commencement appointments from your assigned area.</li> <li>▪ <b>Lastly, the Health and Safety guidelines set by the public health officer need to be strictly adhered to and health screening questions will need to be answered prior to participating in the Commencement ceremony. <i>If you or a family member is feeling unwell or is experiencing any of the symptoms of COVID-19, you will NOT be permitted to attend Westsyde Secondary's Commencement 2021 Ceremony.</i></b></li> </ul>
<b>Location</b>	<p>Our Commencement 2021 Ceremony will occur in the gymnasium of Westsyde Secondary School. A detailed map will follow closer to the event.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Please arrive ten minutes before your appointment at the designated exterior entrance.</li> <li>▪ Only one family waiting at the entrance at a time will be permitted.</li> <li>▪ Parking is available in the school parking lots.</li> </ul>
<b>Attire</b>	<p>All graduates must arrive wearing their cap, V-stole, and gown in order to cross the stage. Tassels will be provided to graduates upon their arrival. Appropriate dress under the graduation gowns is generally smart, casual attire, but graduates may also choose to wear their graduation dresses or suits under their gowns if desired.</p>
<b>Valedictorian</b>	<p><b>Application forms are available at the office today.</b> Due to our tight timelines, <b>deadline for submission is Friday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021.</b> Grade 12 students will vote on the nominees via a Google Survey during the week of April 26-April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and <b>the valedictorian will be selected and announced on Friday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021.</b> This year, the nominee with the highest number of votes will be our valedictorian for WSS Commencement 2021. The valedictorian address will be video-recorded on May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and showcased on our school website.</p>
<b>Grad/Baby Photo Slideshow</b>	<p>The photos submitted for the grad/baby slideshow will be incorporated into the Commencement Ceremony. All baby photos should have been submitted now as the deadline has passed (April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021). If you have an extenuating circumstance and missed the deadline but would still like to submit a baby photo, please contact Mrs. Parenteau in the main office.</p>
<b>After the Commencement Ceremony</b>	<p>Once your commencement appointment has ended, we respectfully ask that graduates and their families please leave the gymnasium and school grounds immediately following. It is important for us to be able to accommodate easy parking and ensure that physical distancing measures are in place for the next graduates and families who will be arriving.</p>

We look forward to seeing you and celebrating this amazing milestone with you! A final grad newsletter will be emailed home on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to give us a call at the school at 250-579-9271.