



Westsyde Secondary School Grad 2027 Newsletter – October

Important Dates:	
November 30-December 4	Grad Photos (by appointment)
January 29	Baby Photo Deadline (tparenteau@sd73.bc.ca)
February 17	Grad Photo re-takes (by appointment)
April 16th	Fees Deadline (all fees must be settled)
Monday, June 14th	Indigenous Grad
Thursday, June 17th at 7pm	Commencement Ceremony at Sandman Centre
June 19th	Grand March and Prom (Parent Committee)

Greetings to the caregivers and families of our Westsyde Secondary graduating class of 2027. We want this to be a great year and for all our grads to finish strong! Here are the things you need to know regarding grad. This information is also posted on the Grad Info Google Classroom. All grads have been invited to the site and should turn on notifications to receive updates. Parent emails can be added to receive updates too.

Grad Wear

“Westsyde Class of 2027” hoodies and track pants are coming soon. We hope to have the sale up and running so you could purchase grad wear as holiday gifts. This year, students have submitted designs for grad wear, and the graduating class will vote to select a design.

Grad Photos

Grad photos will be taken November 30-Dec 4 in Room 18 by appointment. We use the same program as for Parent-Teacher Interviews (PTCFast). Please follow this link to book:

https://ptcfast.com/schools/Grad_Photos

***All Grads should have their photo taken even if you do not plan on purchasing a photo package because the photos are used in the class composite, and the Commencement and in the yearbook. If you don't plan on buying photos, the “yearbook and composite only” sitting is FREE.**

Retakes will be on Wed. Feb 17th if you miss the November 30-Dec 4 sittings or can't get an appointment

Important message from Right Photography:

- For those planning to purchase photos, the sitting fee of \$45 is to be paid directly to the photographer on the day of your pictures*.
- Grads will receive an 8x10 diploma folder, 8x10 mini composite, and a 5x7 photo from the commencement ceremony.
- Gown will be provided. Please wear dress clothes (i.e. blouse, shirt and tie). No t-shirts.
- Small props can be held
- We are taking 12 poses this year

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

Baby Photos

We have a tradition of showing a slideshow of grads' baby photos during the Commencement Ceremony. Please email your photo (infant to pre-school age) to tparenteau@sd73.bc.ca in the office by January 29. If you only have a printed photo and you are unable to scan it, please bring the photo to the main office where we can scan it for you.

Grad Fees

Grad fees will be \$140. The fees cover:

- All commencement costs including a keeper cap, gown, and V-stole package, as well as a Grad Banquet.
- Grad fees are due into the office by Friday, April 16. Grad fees must be paid in full to participate in the Commencement Ceremony.

Commencement Ceremony

Our **commencement ceremony** will be held at Sandman Centre arena this year on Thursday, June 17 at 7pm. **Indigenous grad** (Indigenous students only) will be on Monday, June 14th.

Valedictorian and Class Historian

Valedictorian and Class Historian selection will occur in the spring. Nominees must secure endorsements from 3 teachers who can attest to their academic excellence, leadership, and character. Accepted nominees will have an opportunity to give a speech persuading the grad class to vote for them. More details to come in the New Year.

Graduation Requirements

- 1. The student must be completing all BC Ministry of Education grad requirements and must be in good standing by May 31**
- 2. All outstanding fees must be paid, including the Ceremony fee.**
- 3. All Library fees must be paid and library books/school resources must be 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.

Scholarship Information

Scholarship information can be found on our Google Classroom code [nmvfazkk](#). If you do not already have a copy of the Scholarship Guidelines and Information, you can contact our counseling office. In addition, be sure to check out the [School District #73 scholarships and bursaries page](#).

Safe Grad a.k.a. Dry Grad, Grand March, & Prom

The Safe Grad, Grand March, & Prom events are organized by the Parent Safe Grad Committee and not affiliated with the school.

- Grand March will be (at Privato) and Prom (Coast Hotel) on Saturday, June 19th, with times TBA.
- Dry Grad will be on Sunday, June 13th
- Please reach out to westsydegrad2027@gmail.com to get on their mailing list! Also, look for the WSS Grad 2027 Fundraising Auction and the Westsyde Secondary Grad 2027 Facebook pages.

If you have any questions regarding grad, please contact Vice Principal Sheila Brown at the school 250-579-9271 shbrown@sd73.bc.ca