



Westsyde Secondary School Grad 2026 Newsletter – November

Important Dates:

November 25	Grad Wear Order Deadline (store link)
December 3-9	Grad Photos (by appointment)
January 31	Baby Photo Deadline tparenteau@sd73.bc.ca
February 2	Grad Photo retakes (by appointment)
April 17	Fees Deadline (all outstanding fees must be settled)
June 17	Commencement Ceremony at Sandman Centre 7:00 pm
June 20	Grand March & Prom at Colombo Lodge (Parent Committee)

Greetings to the caregivers and families of our Westsyde Secondary graduating class of 2026. 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 2026” hoodies and track pants are on sale now!

<https://wssgrad2026.itemorder.com/shop/home/> The online store closes November 25th at 11:59pm.

Grad Photos

Grad photos will be taken December 3-9 in Room 16 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 yearbook. If you don't plan on buying photos, the “yearbook and composite only” sitting is FREE.**

Retakes will be on Feb. 2 if you miss the Dec 3-9 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 either 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 submit your photo (infant to pre-school age) to the main office by January 31. This can be done by emailing a digital or scanned photo (JPG, JPEG or PNG file type with the file name: lastname_firstname.jpg) to tparenteau@sd73.bc.ca. If you only have a printed photo and you are unable to scan it, please bring the photo to the main office where we will scan it for you.

Grad Fees

Grad fees will be \$125 (same as last year). 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 17. 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 Wednesday June 17 at 7pm. Whether or not tickets will be needed depends on seating, which is to be confirmed. I should have that information for you in the spring.

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 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 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 3pbe4gvn. 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:

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

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 and Prom will be at Colombo Lodge on June 20. The date of other Safe Grad events is to be determined. Please reach out to WSS2026@gmail.com to get on their mailing list! Also, look for the WSS Grad 2026 Fundraising Auction and the Westsyde Secondary Grad 2026 Facebook pages.

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