

OSS Grad



Graduation Newsletter Spring 2025

Grad 2025

Grad Exercises – Thursday, June 26th, 2025

Winspear Centre

4 Sir Winston Churchill Square
Edmonton, Alberta

Cap & Gown Distribution	5:30-6:30 p.m.
Line up for Exercises	6:30 p.m.
Doors open for Auditorium seating	6:30 p.m.
Exercises Program	7:00- 8:30 p.m

Graduation Criteria

In order to participate in the graduation program, students must meet specific graduation criteria for the program they are registered in. Meeting these criteria will make them eligible to receive a diploma or certificate in their high school program. The detailed criteria for a high school diploma and Knowledge and Employability Certificate can be found on the Grad link on the school website. If students are in a non credited program and are completing a Certificate of High School completion, counsellors and the Inclusive Education teacher will discuss with parents when their students will participate in graduation ceremonies.

Students who meet the criteria will have their ID numbers posted on the graduation list starting at the beginning of May 2025. The last day to get your name on the grad list will be June 20th . **Only those students on this graduation list are eligible to participate in the 2025 Graduation Ceremonies.** Prior to this, parents of students who were in danger of not graduating will be contacted by administration to potentially satisfy school graduation requirements. If you have questions about your child's eligibility, please contact: Mr. Lake , dan.lake@gshare.blackgold.ca (surnames A-F) Mrs. Maltais Wendy.Maltais@gshare.blackgold.ca (surnames G-M), or Mrs. Hamilton shelley.hamilton@gshare.blackgold.ca (surnames N-Z) Students who are rewriting a Diploma Exam in June to remain eligible for participation in the Grad Ceremonies must submit their registration form to Mr. Lake as soon as possible. A fee of \$26.50 must be paid to Alberta Education as well.

In order to participate in the graduation ceremonies, students must maintain satisfactory marks, a student should not have a failing grade in any course they need to complete their program on May 1, 2025. These criteria are published on the school website. Students must be in good standing with the school including School Fees paid by Feb. 1st and Grad Fees paid by Apr. 1st or a payment program established with the Principal before purchasing tickets to the ceremony.

VALEDICTORIAN CRITERIA INFORMATION

The valedictorian is the most academically accomplished individual in the grade 12 class.

The valedictorian must have the highest cumulative grade in the given subject areas:

1. English Language Arts 30-1

And four of the following six academic courses:

- a. Biology 30
- b. Chemistry 30
- c. Mathematics 30-1
- d. Mathematics 31
- e. Physics 30
- f. Social Studies 30-1

The average is to be calculated at the end of quarter three, using completed course marks for semester one and midterm marks for courses taken in semester two.

The valedictorian should also represent general Ohpaho Secondary School core values such as being in good standing with the school, etc.

Student Conduct During Graduation

In accordance with the Board of Trustees policy for Black Gold School Division, we encourage all parents to talk with their graduands concerning proper conduct during the graduation ceremonies. Because this is a formal program and we are presenting it to honour those students who are about to reach this initial milestone in their lives, we want to take steps that will ensure that the conduct is consistent with the event. When you are organizing transportation to and from the event, please take steps to ensure that students arrive at the ceremonies without being under the influence of any kind of intoxicants.

Prior to the ceremonies we will have chaperones to help with grad line-ups. **If we feel a student has consumed alcohol or drugs, we will ask his/her parents to come and have the student sit with them in the audience.** Further disciplinary action will be taken at the school and may include suspension.

It is our sincere hope that all participants at the 2025 graduation will extend their full cooperation with both the letter and the spirit of the Board policy. Through this cooperation we will take every precaution to ensure that the graduation will be a safe, orderly event, and can continue to be an occasion that graduands, parents, staff and guests can look back on with pride.

We would like to ask all parents of graduands to discuss the matter of alcohol and other substances with their son or daughter and any guests prior to graduation. If there are any questions or concerns that come out of these discussions, please contact Mr. Dan Lake at 587 (671-0331)

***Please Note: The Winspear has been designated as a non-smoking facility.
We ask the cooperation of all guests to smoke/vape outside the venue.***

Important Information for Exercise Tickets

All tickets this year will be sold through the parent portal of Powerschool. There is handicapped seating available for those needing it.

Do not purchase a ticket for the graduate.

For ticketing – the Winspear policy does require that each individual, including children and infants in arms, must have a ticket.

There will be a total of 8 tickets available to the family and friends of each graduate. Ticket sales will begin after the final grad list is posted on May 15th. Tickets will be available through the Parent Portal of powerschool. Tickets will cost \$25.00. Parents should try to purchase their tickets within two weeks.

After all parents of graduates have had an opportunity to purchase tickets to commencement, we will put any additional tickets for commencement on sale through the online system starting on June 1, 2025.

Tickets will be available for pick up at the school starting on June 17th.

Seating at the Winspear is reserved. The doors will open at 6:30 p.m.

More information about ticket purchasing will be sent out closer to the event.

Gown Sizing

Gown sizing is done based on a student's height. A google form has been shared with students through the Grade 12 google classroom. All students are asked to fill in the form so that a gown is ordered for them accordingly. Each grad will be allowed to keep his/her cap and tassel as a memento of Grad 2025. Only students who have ordered gowns through the school will be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremonies.

Grad Council

The Grad Council is made up of students in grade 12 who would like to help make some decisions about graduation. They have been hard at work:

Grad Colours : White, silver, purple

Grad Recessional Song - Students are asked to submit suggestions to the google classroom by March. 21. Another google form will go out to vote for the song they would like to have played as they exit the hall after graduation.

Grad Spirit Week: June 2-6th - Please let a grad council member know if you have ideas for spirit week or come to one of the grad council meetings. They are the first Tuesday of the month. Our next meeting will be April 8, 2025.

If you have any questions please contact Mrs. Hamilton at Ohpaho Secondary School (shelley.hamilton@gshare.blackgold.ca)

Audition For Musical Tributes

Auditions will take place in April for talented people who would like to sing or play an instrument during the commencement ceremony. Auditions are open to all grads. Musical tributes must relate to the themes of graduation. A copy of the lyrics for songs needed to be provided prior to auditions.

***Please note that anyone who will be performing at the ceremonies must attend a sound check and rehearsal at the Winspear Centre prior to the ceremony. Information will be provided to those students who will be performing.**

Program Cover Art And Poem

We try to feature the creative talents of our senior class in the Commencement program. We will be accepting submissions for artwork and poetry. Students wishing to make submissions for this year's program can drop them off at the front office.

Rehearsal: June 18th at 3:15

A mandatory grad rehearsal will take place Wednesday, June 18th at 3:15 p.m. in the OSS Gym. It is imperative that all grad participants attend. (Plan for time off work!) We will practice until we get it right. A class picture will also be taken at this time.

Personal Belongings

Coats, purses, or other personal items are not to be left with the hostesses or the staff volunteers helping with the grad gowns. Please leave any of your personal items with your parents or a trusted friend.

Grad Seating and Receipt of Certificates

Grads will enter the Winspear in a processional march at 7:00 p.m. and be seated in the audience. Later in the program, students will proceed across the stage to receive individual recognition and their graduation certificates. We have arranged for a wide screen closed-circuit TV set up so that members of the audience will be better able to view the program. Grads will exit the auditorium in a recessional through the audience at the end of the program.

Photography at Commencement

All guests at the Commencement are asked to please remain in their seats during the program. Having parents collecting in front of the stage area to take pictures when the grads are on stage is distracting to the grads and parents seated at the front. A professional photographer will be taking a picture of each graduand receiving their certificate. A copy of the "handshake photo" will be provided at no cost to each grad.

Prom - June 7th

6:00pm-10:00pm at Ohpaho Secondary School

Ticket price is \$35 per person, each Grade 12 student is allowed to bring a plus one. Tickets will be made available on the parent portal of Powerschool.

There will be appetizers, punch and a candy table

Some activities that will be happening is a dance, printed photo booth, 360 photo booth, raffle draws, games, and much more

Fundraising for Prom

A group of Grade 12 parents have been planning the Prom. To that end, they have organized a few fundraisers to help this be a memorable event for students. They are asking that ALL the grade 12's help out with the fundraising efforts. Their goal is to raise \$10,000 dollars

So far, they have done a bottle drive raising around \$5000.

They did grocery bagging on Saturday, March 15 and again on Saturday, March 22. There is a link on the Grade 12 google classroom to sign up.

A Local Meats fundraiser has also just been rolled out. Watch for it on your Parent Portal as well as Social Media.