

OSS Grad



Graduation Newsletter Fall 2026

Grad 2026

Grad Exercises – June 23, 2026

Winspear Centre

4 Sir Winston Churchill Square
Edmonton, Alberta

Line up for Exercises on the second floor 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 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.***

Students who meet the criteria will have their ID numbers posted on the graduation list starting on May 15, 2026. The last day to get your name on the grad list will be June 15th. **Only those students on this graduation list are eligible to participate in the 2026 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. Hancock , kevin.hancock@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.

All grade 12 students should be part of the Grade 12 Google Classroom. Essential information is shared there including booking grad photos, buying tickets and ordering gowns.

Class Code: g4xqysk

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 using completed course marks for semester one and marks for courses taken in semester two as of May 15th.

The valedictorian should also represent general Ohpaho Secondary School core values such as being in good standing with the school; to act with respect, take responsibility for their learning and choices, and show integrity in all they do.

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 2026 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 graduates, parents, staff and guests can look back on with pride.

We would like to ask all parents of graduates 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 participants and their guests to smoke/vape outside.

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 on June 5th. An email will be sent out to Grade 12 parents when tickets can be purchased.

After all graduates have had an opportunity to purchase tickets to commencement (around June 15th) we will put any additional tickets for commencement on sale through the online system.

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.

Grad Council

The Grad Council is made up of students in grade 12 who would like to help make some decisions about graduation. The following decisions are made with the Grad council's input:

Grad Colours Grad Song Grad Spirit Days

Prom Planning Grad Wear

Speakers for Grad Ceremonies: including Reply from Staff

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

Funding Graduation

The cost of graduation is supported through ticket sales and grad fees. These costs are as follows:

· Graduation Fee - \$60.00 (Covers gown rental, souvenir cap and tassel, music, printing costs, decorations and the grad's exercise ticket). Note: The basic participation fee or graduation fee of \$60 is charged to every grade 12.

· Commencement Tickets - The cost of the commencement tickets is \$25. ***If any grad is experiencing financial difficulty with the payment of fees, please contact [Mrs. Fitzsimmons](#) as soon as possible.***

Gown Sizing

Gown sizing is done based on a student's height. A google form will be shared with students in the New year and a gown ordered for them accordingly. Each grad will be allowed to keep his/her cap and tassel as a memento of Grad 2026.. Only students who have ordered gowns through the school will be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremonies.

Audition For Musical Tributes

Auditions will take place in May 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 Thursday, 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.

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 6:30 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 graduate receiving their certificate. A copy of the "handshake photo" will be provided at no cost to each grad.

Prom

A grad celebration "Prom" is being held in June. We will have a meeting for any parent that would like to be part of the planning committee. The meeting will take place on **Thursday, January 8, 2026 at 6:30 p.m in the Ohpaho Learning Commons .**