OSS GRAD

Graduation Newsletter Fall 2026

Grad 2027

Graduation Ceremony – June 28, 2027

Winspear Centre
4 Sir Winston Churchill Square
Edmonton, Alberta

Students line up on the second floor of the Winspear ..... 6:30 p.m.
Doors open for seating ..... 6:30 p.m.
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 our school website. If students are in a non-credited program and are completing a Certificate of High School completion, counselors or 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 in full by March 15th and Grad Fees paid by May 1st or a payment program established with the school's accounting administrative assistant before purchasing tickets to the ceremony.

Students who meet the criteria will have their School ID numbers, not their ASN, posted on the graduation list starting on May 15, 2027. This list will be posted on the Grade 12 Google Classroom. The last day to get your name on the grad list will be June 15th. Once your name is on the Grad List it WILL NOT come off of the list. Only those students on this graduation list are eligible to participate in the 2027 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
Mr. Kirkham, darcy.kirkham@gshare.blackgold.ca (surnames N-Z).

All students should have a myPass account with Alberta Education to keep track of their credit count and diploma marks.

Students should be part of the Grade 12 Google Classroom.
Essential information is shared there including how to set up a myPass account, booking grad photos, buying tickets and ordering gowns.

Class Code: vq2ieew

Valedictorian Criteria Information

The valedictorian is the most academically accomplished individual in the grade 12 class and will be invited to give a speech at the ceremony on June 28th. .

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 28th.

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

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.

It is our sincere hope that all participants at the 2027 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.

Please Note: The Winspear has been designated as a non-smoking/vaping facility.
We ask the cooperation of all participants and their guests.

Important Information for Exercise Tickets

All tickets will be sold through the parent portal of Powerschool. Please indicate on the form if you require accessible seating. Ticket sales

Do not purchase a ticket for the graduate.

The Winspear policy does require that each individual, including children and infants in arms, must have a ticket.

There will be a total of 6 tickets available per grad. Ticket sales will begin in early June. 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 Parent Portal.

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

Grad Council

The Grad Council is made up of students in grade 12 who would like to help make some decisions about graduation. Students are permitted 3 absences from Grad Council meetings after which time their name will be removed from the committee roster.

At times the Grad Council may solicit opinions from the whole group of grade 12 students. This will be done via the Google Classroom.

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

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, diploma cover, 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.

Gown Sizing

Gown sizing is done based on a student's height. A google form will be shared on the Grade 12 Google Classroom in the new year and a gown will be ordered for them accordingly. Each grad will be allowed to keep their cap and tassel as a memento of Grad 2027. Only students who have ordered gowns through the school will be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremonies.

Grad Portraits

Professional photographers will be at Ohpaho on January 20, 21, 22, 25 and 26, 2027, to take graduation portraits.All graduates are encouraged to have their photo taken, even if they do not plan to purchase any prints. These portraits will be used to create our official OSS Class of 2027 graduation composite, ensuring that every graduate is represented in this special keepsake.Photo appointments must be booked using the link provided in Google Classroom. The sitting fee is payable directly to the photography company at the time of booking.

Auditions 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.

Mandatory Rehearsal: June 23rd at 3:15 pm

A mandatory grad rehearsal will take place Thursday, June 23rd at 3:15 p.m. in the OSS Gym.

It is imperative that all grad participants attend. (Plan for time off work!)

At this time, students can pick up their cap & gown and any purchased tickets.

Personal Belongings

Coats, purses, or other personal items are not to be left with 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 take a picture of each graduate with their diploma. The digital download will be available 3 or 4 days after graduation. The code for this will be published in the graduation program if it is available at the time of printing.

After the Event

All graduates are required to return their gown and stole to the coat check area before leaving the Winspear Centre.

The photography company will provide a link for graduates and their families to access a digital copy of their diploma photo. This link will be shared in Google Classroom and will hopefully be included in the graduation program.

Approximately one week after the ceremony, families will receive an email with a link to the ceremony video. The link will also be posted in Google Classroom. Please note that families will typically need to download the video to view it.

Important Dates

Nov 6	-	Make sure your grade 12 student is part of the Google Classroom
Nov 30	-	Check that your student has a myPass account and their home email (not BGSD) is used in this profile
Jan 22-26	-	Grad Portraits will be taken at school - book online
March 15	-	School Fees paid
May 1	-	Grad Fee paid $60 per grade 12
May 15	-	First Grad List is published on Google Classroom
May 28	-	Grade Calculation for Valedictorian
Early June	-	Tickets go on sale via the Parent Portal - 6 per grad
Mid June	-	Remaining tickets go on sale
June 15	-	Last day to get on the Grad List
June 23	-	Show up for Grad ceremony rehearsal
June 28	-	Be at the Winspear by 6:30

Stay tuned for the Spring Grad Newsletter.

