

# OSS Grad Update



*Graduation Newsletter Spring 2026*

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Grad 2026

## Upcoming Dates

### Senior Spirit Week - June 1-5

Monday - Decades Day

Tuesday - Soccer Mom vs BBQ Dad

Wednesday - Beach Day

Thursday - Country vs Country Club

Friday - Frat Friday

- Senior Sunrise - Come and join the senior class watching the sunrise
- Staff will provide breakfast at 7:30

**Ticket sales - Friday, June 5th** - for the Winspear open at 5:00 pm through the Parent Portal on PowerSchool. There is accessible 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. Seating is assigned at the Winspear.

**There will be a total of 8 tickets available to the family and friends of each graduate.**

**Cost of the tickets for the Commencement will be \$25**

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.

## Prom - Saturday, June 6th

Ohpaho Secondary School

Open to all grade 12 students

Doors open at 6:00 pm

Promenade will be at 6:30. Students will walk out of the doors by the Cosmetology lab and proceed around the front of the school. A group photo will be taken at the end of the walk. Parents are welcome to watch from the student pick/drop off lane. Please park in the parking lot to leave the lane clear.

Students' bags will be checked upon entry to the event. Appetizers and beverages will be provided throughout the evening. Students are encouraged to eat a meal before they come. Students that leave the Prom will not be allowed re-entry. The Prom will end around 10:00 pm

Cost of the tickets is \$35 and can be purchased on the parent portal until May 28. Students are allowed to bring a guest.

## Walking Year Book - Monday, June 8

Students are encouraged to wear a plain, light colored shirt so they can collect signatures and comments from their fellow classmates.

## Grad Rehearsal, Ticket and Gown Pick Up 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.

Students can pick up their grad gowns and mortar boards starting on June 18th at 3:15.

Tickets can be picked up starting on June 18th at 3:15.

## Grad Exercises – June 23, 2026

### Winspear Centre

4 Sir Winston Churchill Square

Edmonton, Alberta

Come dressed in your grad gown and mortar board.

|   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| 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 |

\*\*Note that the City of Edmonton has closed some of the streets adjacent to the [Winspear Centre](#). Plan accordingly. Parking is available at Canada Place.

## Graduation Criteria

As published in the Fall newsletter,

**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 and Grad Fees paid or a payment program established with the Principal before their names will be on the grad list and parents will be able to purchase tickets to the ceremony.***

Students who have met the above criteria will have had their student numbers added to the grad list that was posted on the Grade 12 Google Classroom, as well as posted on the Grad Board at the end of the main hallway. Each Friday, students will be added to the list as they meet the above criteria. The last day to have your name added to the grad list is June 15th. If you have questions about your child's eligibility, please contact: Mr. Hancock , [kevin.hancock@gshare.blackgold.ca](mailto:kevin.hancock@gshare.blackgold.ca) (surnames A-F) Mrs. Maltais [Wendy.Maltais@gshare.blackgold.ca](mailto:Wendy.Maltais@gshare.blackgold.ca) (surnames G-M), or Mrs. Hamilton [shelley.hamilton@gshare.blackgold.ca](mailto: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 regarding the Grad ceremony and the Prom.**

**Class Code: g4xqysk**

## **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 graduate and a copy of the "handshake photo" will be provided at no cost to each grad.

## **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 guests to smoke/vape outside abiding by the regulations of at least 5 m from the entrance of a building.***