



Western Canada High School 641 17th Ave SW | Calgary AB | T2S 0B5 | 403.228.5363

## *Graduation Newsletter 2026*

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The culmination of twelve years of education is a special time in the life of students, parents, and staff. We recognize this as an important passage and an occasion to be marked with formal ceremonies in the morning, followed by a banquet and dance in the evening. *Western Canada High School's 2026 Graduation Ceremony* and the optional [Grad Banquet & Dance](#) will take place on **Friday, 29 May 2026**.

**On 9 April 2026, there will be a virtual "All Things Grad" Parent Council meeting at 6:30 p.m.**

## *Graduation Ceremony*

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### *Ceremony Participation*

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To be eligible to take part in the graduation ceremonies and the banquet/dance, grade 12 students must be registered in a program of courses that will enable them to complete their graduation requirements by the end of June 2026.

Students who do not meet graduation requirements, or who leave school during the year without completing the requirements, **will not be eligible** to participate in graduation activities.

### *Graduation Ceremony (no extra cost)*

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The Graduation Ceremony is at no extra cost to students outside the graduation fee of \$85. There are no tickets or official restriction to the number of guests per graduand, however, it is recommended that graduands invite no more than 4 guests due to the size of the venue.

**Event Date:** Friday, 29 May 2026; 9:00 am - 11:30 am. There are **no classes** on 29 May.  
Grads are asked to arrive for 8am, Guests should arrive for 8:30am to find seats

**Event Location:** [Markin MacPhail Centre at WinSport](#)  
[88 Canada Olympic Road SW](#)

**Mandatory Rehearsal Date:** Wednesday, 20 May 2026; 2:00 - 3:20 pm during Period 3 (Block 4)  
**Rehearsal Location:** WCHS Main Gymnasium

- Grad ceremony fee (\$85 including GST) must be paid in full by Friday, 10 April to avoid banquet ticket purchase delays. Payment done through **parent PowerSchool portal**. Students over 18 years old must pay in person in the Business Office. Grad gowns are not distributed if fees are outstanding.
  - If you are experiencing financial difficulties, please see below how to apply for a central fee waiver. This waiver must be completed for a student to be considered for a school-based waiver of fees. After your centralized fee waiver has been approved, please reach out to school administration.
    - Centralized Fee Waiver:
      - No child is ever denied access to an education in the Calgary Board of Education (CBE) because of an inability to pay. If you can't afford the fees, there are several ways to qualify for a central fee waiver. Waiver applications for the current school year are found online through your [MyCBE](#) account and are available from the start of the school year until June 30. Please check out more information [here](#).

#### Grad Rehearsal:

- Students crossing the stage **must attend** the graduation rehearsal on Wednesday May 20, 2026 starting at 2pm in the Main Gym.
  - Students who are impacted by school trips that fall on the day of the graduation rehearsal (ex. PE Leadership) have already been accommodated by the graduation organizers and more information will be provided by their teacher.
- During the rehearsal, students receive instructions on procedures for the Closing Exercises; parking locations, and directions to the venue location. Students also receive their graduation gown, stole as well as their keepsake hat and tassel.

#### Graduation Ceremony:

- Ceremony **begins at 9:00 am sharp and will conclude between 11:30 – 11:45 am**. Grads must arrive at WinSport's Markin MacPhail Centre by **8:00 am** to pick up their name card and then line up. Please plan accordingly because parking can get busy. Guests should arrive by 8:30 am to find seats.
- Parking is available at WinSport, it is highly recommended to carpool when possible as parking is limited. Parking in the [designated lot](#) is \$10 per vehicle (to be confirmed), cash preferred.
- Each graduate is asked to bring **no more than 4 guests** to the Ceremony due to the size of the venue and number of graduands. Guest admittance is based on the honour system and no passes or tickets are required for entry. If the Markin MacPhail Centre's arena is over capacity, it means some graduates exceeded their 4 guest quota. We do appreciate every family's adherence to this expectation.
- A Lifetouch photographer will be booked to take a photo of graduands after they leave the stage. This photo will be made available to graduands by Lifetouch.

- If you did not book a graduation photo sitting, please reach out to Lifetouch with your email address: <https://lifetouch.ca/sales-contact-us/>. Guests may only take photos from their seats during the ceremony other photos may be taken before the ceremony.
- As this is the graduating **Class** of 2026 – a day organised to celebrate the collective achievement of our students, we respectfully ask that graduands and guests stay for the **entire ceremony** and celebrate their peers’ achievement. It is also important to note that the ceremony is formal and may not be suitable for young children. Graduands will not be permitted to leave early.
- The graduation gown and stole must be returned *immediately* following the graduation ceremony. Please take photos of graduands in gowns prior to the ceremony. Graduands are allowed to keep their cap and tassel.

## *Graduation Ceremony Terms and Conditions*

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### Event Centre Information:

- Seating is on a first come first serve basis around the arena. There are some options for overflow should the capacity of the arena and track be reached
- Some sections of the arena are reserved for people with mobility challenges or families of the platform party. Please be cognizant of the reserved signs and directions of the teacher ushers.

### Guest Conduct Policy

- The Graduation Ceremony school event, therefore, all rules and expectations around acceptable behaviour apply.
- There is a strictly non-smoking, non-vaping, and non-alcoholic event for ALL guests.
- The use of drugs is strictly prohibited.
- Patrons who appear under any illegal influences will be asked to leave by Winsport Staff

### Photography

- When attending this event, you enter an area where photography, audio, and video recording may occur. By entering the event premises, you consent to such recording media and its release, publication, exhibition or reproduction.

*Direct questions regarding the **Closing Ceremonies** to:  
Ms. Annaliese Scharfenberger at [anscharfenberger@cbe.ab.ca](mailto:anscharfenberger@cbe.ab.ca)*

# *Graduation Banquet and Dance*

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This portion of the graduation day is completely OPTIONAL and is not covered by the graduation fees listed in the [Graduation Ceremony](#) portion of this newsletter. The Graduation Banquet and Dance tickets may only be purchased by graduands who have no outstanding school fees and are on the graduating student list.

## *Optional Participation for an Extra Fee*

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This **optional** activity takes place in the evening of Friday May 29, 2026. All school fees must be paid prior to Friday, 10 April 2026 and tickets are \$145/ticket (which includes GST). There is a maximum of 3 tickets per graduand, including the graduand.

## *Graduation Banquet and Dance*

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**Event Date:** Friday, 29 May 2026; 5:30pm - 10:30PM

**Event Location:** [Hyatt Regency Hotel: Grand Imperial Ballroom](#)  
[700 Centre Street South, Calgary](#)

**Parking:** There is limited on-site parking. Graduands and guests are encouraged to carpool, uber, or take public transportation to the event.

### **Banquet Tickets:**

**Cost Per Ticket:** \$145 per ticket (includes GST)

**Basic Information:**

- Limited to 3 tickets per graduand
- [Purchased online via Rycor](#)
- Tickets are non-refundable
- No tickets sold after deadline
- Request additional tickets by 10 April 2026 (additional tickets made available as separate purchase during purchasing window)
- [Group Captain](#) picks up tickets at the Grad Rehearsal 20 May

**Dates to Purchase Tickets:** 8AM Monday 13 April - 11pm Monday 20 April **ONLY**

## Steps to Ensure You Get Banquet Tickets:

- Verify your name on the grad list by 30 March (outside of student services)
  - Make sure you are graduating this year
- Clear Outstanding school fees BEFORE Friday, 10 April 2026
  - Only students on the grad list with no outstanding school fees are eligible to purchase banquet tickets.
  - If you are restricted from purchasing, check the grad list and visit the business office
- Table Planning and Extra Ticket Requests (prior to ticket sale)
  - Grads are restricted to a maximum of 3 tickets for the banquet; however, additional tickets can be requested before 10 April 2026 through the Google form that will be linked on the grad website and sent to Grade 12 students through School Messenger
  - All banquet attendees must purchase a ticket for themselves and their guests. It is recommended that guests are 12 years or older. There are no discounts on tickets.
  - Seating preferences
    - **No preference in seating:** you and your guests will be placed together with other groups to complete a table of eleven
      - If no preference for seating is required, please list the graduate as the Group Captain so organizers can ensure smaller parties stay together
    - **Preference in Seating:**
      - Pre-arrange your seating with other grads and their guests to create FULL TABLES OF ELEVEN with no empty seats.
      - If needed, you can group up to 4 tables of eleven together under one "group captain" (see information about group captains below) for 44 guests in one party. Larger groups will be split at the organizer's discretion.
      - Once your pre-planning is completed, fill out the Table Planning form on the Grad website

- **Group Captain Information**

- If you have a group of guests wishing to sit together (1 or more tables), designate **ONE graduating student** to be the ENTIRE party's GROUP CAPTAIN
- The person purchasing Banquet tickets will need the name of the Group Captain **prior to purchasing tickets**
- Guests with the same Group Captain are seated at the same or adjacent tables (see per Table Planning form information above)
- When purchasing tickets, you will be asked to indicate a Group Captain for each ticket. Changes cannot be made once tickets are purchased.
- Graduates are responsible for purchasing tickets for themselves and their guests, Group Captains DO NOT purchase tickets for their entire group.
- If no preference for seating is required, please list the graduate as the Group Captain so organizers can ensure smaller parties stay together

- **Purchase your Banquet Tickets Online**

**(8am Monday 13 April - 11pm Monday 20 April ONLY)**

- Banquet tickets are purchased online via Rycor. There is a limit of 3 tickets per graduand (including the graduating student).
  - Additional tickets can be requested through a google form on the WCHS Graduation website **before** 10 April 2026
- **No tickets will be sold after 20 April 2026** as the final headcount must be provided to the Hyatt Regency
- To Purchase Tickets, you need the following information:
  - Valid email address, name of all guests
  - Each guest's preferred buffet meal from the choices: regular, vegetarian/vegan, or allergy
  - Guest food allergies and sensitivities
  - Group Captain (see above)

- **Submit Table Planning Form (21 April - 30 April 2026)**

- Once ticket sales close, guests will be assigned and seated at tables by the organizer.
- For groups larger than eight, please complete the table planning form found on the grad website
- Submit your completed Table Planning Form to the Main office between April 21 and April 30, 2026

- **Pick Up Banquet Tickets**

- Group Captains pick up the tickets for their party at the end of the [Graduation Rehearsal](#) in the Main Gym on Wednesday May 20, 2026

# *Graduation Banquet and Dance Terms and Conditions*

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## Admission and Seating Policies

- Picture ID must be presented if requested by the event organizers
- Guests are not permitted to leave the banquet hall. Students who leave will not be permitted re-entrance
- Seating: every attempt will be made to ensure that guest seating is correct. However, in the event of a discrepancy, the master list of registrations will be used to resolve any issues.

## Guest Conduct Policy

- The Graduation Banquet and Dance is a school event, therefore all rules and expectations around acceptable behaviour apply.
- There is a strictly non-smoking, non-vaping, and non-alcoholic event for ALL guests.
- The use of drugs is strictly prohibited.
- The Hyatt Security/ WCHS Staff will be searching all bags of patrons and students.
- Patrons who appear under any illegal influences will be asked to leave by the Hyatt Security
- If alcohol is an important part of your celebrations, we ask that you find an alternate venue.

## Photography

- When attending this event, you enter an area where photography, audio, and video recording may occur. By entering the event premises, you consent to such recording media and its release, publication, exhibition or reproduction.

## Cancellation Policy

- All sales are final. No refunds will be issued.

Direct questions regarding the **Banquet and Dance** to:  
Ms. Jordan Irwin at [jairwin@cbe.ab.ca](mailto:jairwin@cbe.ab.ca)