

Dear BOSS Graduates and Families,

We are looking forward to this year's graduation ceremony, which will be held on Thursday June 26, 2025 in our school gymnasium. This letter includes important information regarding our Graduation Awards. Please review this information carefully and contact your guidance counsellor if you have any questions.

## GRADUATION AWARDS

There will be many awards for our graduates at our Graduation Ceremony to recognize the achievement and contributions of the Grade 12 class. The recipients of these awards will be determined by a panel of teachers and school staff. As part of our selection process we invite graduating students to self-nominate for up to **3 Graduation Awards**. All self-nominations must be received by **3 p.m. on Wednesday, April 2, 2025** to be considered. Please note, self-nominations are only part of the selection process. Staff nominations will also be considered.

**A REMINDER:** All award applications will be considered equally based on the criteria of each award. However, students who have full timetables (3 or more courses per semester) may be given preference in award selection as they have maintained their "full time status" as a student at BOSS. This was messaged to all students who chose to go through the part time status request process throughout the year.

### Graduation Awards - Students may **Self-Nominate** for the awards below

Award Name (click on link to self nominate for up to 3 graduation awards)	Award Criteria
<a href="#"><u>Director's Achievement Award</u></a>	Awarded to <b>three</b> students who <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• have made significant accomplishments within the school community</li><li>• have assisted in the planning and implementation of school events for the purpose of engaging student participation</li><li>• contributions to the development and/or improvement of the quality of student experience at Bur Oak</li><li>• have shown exceptional character and acts as a positive role model to others in the school and/or community</li></ul>
<a href="#"><u>Student Trustee Award for Character</u></a>	Awarded to <b>one</b> student in every secondary school who has exemplified the character values of the York Region District School Board and who is a role model to their peers.
<a href="#"><u>Ontario Principals' Council Award for Student Leadership</u></a>	Awarded to <b>one</b> student who <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• displays exemplary leadership and has made a specific and significant contribution to the school community</li><li>• has been involved in a variety of activities in student life during his or her time at Bur Oak</li><li>• has shown cooperation and respect for students, staff and members of the school community</li></ul>
<a href="#"><u>K. Mereweather Award of Excellence</u></a>	Awarded to <b>one</b> student who <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• is graduating with an 80%+ average</li><li>• attended BOSS for a minimum of 3 years</li><li>• plans to pursue education in a post-secondary setting</li><li>• is a self-directed, responsible, and lifelong learner who develops and demonstrates his or her potential</li></ul>

<a href="#"><u>Bur Oak Community Involvement Award</u></a>	<p>Awarded to <b><u>one</u></b> student who</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• demonstrates extensive volunteering in the community and/or school</li> <li>• shows a deep commitment to a number of community organizations or extensive leadership in a specific organization</li> <li>• viewed as a role model who inspires others to be involved</li> </ul>
<a href="#"><u>Bur Oak Character Award</u></a>	<p>Awarded to <b><u>two</u></b> students who</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate “standing up for personal beliefs and values” for the well being of others</li> <li>• show integrity in decision making</li> <li>• demonstrate the qualities of friendship and inclusiveness with all students in the school community (empathy)</li> </ul>
<a href="#"><u>Bur Oak Staff Awards</u></a>	<p>Awarded to <b><u>three</u></b> students who</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• have demonstrated perseverance--student who has shown continued determination to reach his/her personal goals for success while overcoming significant transitions, personal or family challenges</li> <li>• have demonstrated resiliency, courage and optimism</li> <li>• have achieved acceptable grades in line with personal abilities</li> </ul>
<a href="#"><u>School Council Award for Leadership</u></a>	<p>Awarded to <b><u>one</u></b> student who</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• demonstrates leadership in planning events and/or awareness campaigns for Bur Oak student body (clubs, teams, councils) to effect change beyond the walls of our school</li> <li>• motivated and encouraged other students to be active and contributing members of the larger society</li> </ul>
<a href="#"><u>OSSTF Commencement Award</u></a>	<p>Awarded to <b><u>one</u></b> student who</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• demonstrates strong and consistent learning skills</li> <li>• shows perseverance in school and/or life</li> <li>• possesses a desire to learn and to improve</li> <li>• will be attending college, an apprenticeship program or entering the workplace</li> </ul>
<a href="#"><u>Lieutenant Governor’s Community Volunteer Award</u></a>	<p>Awarded to <b><u>one</u></b> student who not only completed the required number of community hours to graduate, but goes above and beyond in the service to their community</p>
<a href="#"><u>Markham Unionville Rotary Award</u></a>	<p>Awarded to <b><u>one</u></b> student who</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is in good academic standing</li> <li>• Demonstrates strong community service, with an emphasis on non-school related volunteering</li> <li>• Demonstrates leadership in sports, clubs, church or community</li> <li>• Is continuing their post-secondary education</li> </ul>
<a href="#"><u>Niles Family Award</u></a>	<p>Awarded to <b><u>two</u></b> students who</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Self-identify as Black</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum 3.0 (75%) GPA over the previous two years of study at BOSS; (11&amp;12)</li> <li>• A written statement (250-500 words) from the applicant outlining their academic focus and graduate academic or career goals</li> <li>• Two letters of reference with at least one being from an academic familiar with the student's extracurricular activities at BOSS</li> <li>• CV that outlines relevant experience and academic achievements, including extracurricular activities, coaching, community outreach, volunteer work, and civic engagement.</li> </ul>
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### Staff Selected Awards **(no student self-nominations required)**

<b>BOSS Leadership Award</b>	<p>This award recognizes a student leader who quietly makes a difference. The graduating student demonstrates many of the following attributes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• works hard behind the scenes</li> <li>• helps to create a welcoming and inclusive environment for others</li> <li>• stays positive when faced with challenges</li> <li>• inspires others to become better leaders</li> <li>• sets example for others to follow</li> <li>• holds themselves to the higher standard than they hold for others</li> </ul>
<b>Alex McCombes Healthy Active Living Award</b>	<p>Alex was a teacher at Bur Oak S.S. for over 10 years and was instrumental in shaping and developing the Healthy Active Living course and the athletic program. Alex has always believed in the importance of an active lifestyle and would guide his students not only through his lessons but also by his individual commitment to fitness.</p> <p>Alex strived to get students to believe in themselves and to not measure themselves against others but to take pride and ownership of their own accomplishments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Graduating student who has shown a strong commitment and dedication to healthy active living</li> <li>• Shown perseverance to achieve their personal best in their academic studies and athletic endeavors</li> <li>• Exhibits an exceptional work ethic each day</li> <li>• Treats all with kindness and respect</li> </ul>
<b>Mohammed Family Award</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student of Caribbean descent</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum 85% average in grade 12 courses</li> <li>• Demonstrates good character and is a positive role model</li> <li>• Post-secondary program in public service is preferred</li> </ul>
<b>MacSween Family Award</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum 80% average in grade 12 courses</li> <li>• Demonstrates good character and is a positive role model</li> <li>• Post-secondary program in social work or psychology required</li> </ul>
<b>The Jim Rueckert Citizenship Award</b>	<p>The "Jim Rueckert Citizenship Award" is presented annually to honour the memory of Jim Rueckert, who taught Music and Career Studies at Bur Oak SS from 2010 to 2023. His family, friends, and colleagues established this award, following his passing, to recognize a graduating student who demonstrated the traits that Mr. Rueckert lived by: generosity, kindness, respect for others, and exemplary citizenship in the school community.</p>