

IMPORTANT GRADUATION INFORMATION

Mark your calendars:

Graduation Ceremony - Wednesday June 29th, 2016

ELIGIBILITY — You are eligible to participate in the Graduation Ceremony on Wednesday June 29th, 2016 if you will have completed **25 credits or more by the end of Semester 1**, have **passed the OSSLT**, and have **completed your 40 community service hours**.

Participation in the Graduation Ceremony does not guarantee your achievement of the Ontario Secondary School Diploma. You must satisfy all diploma requirements to OFFICIALLY graduate.

- Inform GUIDANCE immediately if you are taking or planning to take night school or private school courses. Ensure that transcripts or report cards for all credits earned outside of day school are submitted to Ms. Lam in Guidance by **JUNE 17th, 2016**. (Document criteria: must be signed and sealed originals.)
- You must have completed your 40 hours community service and submitted the documentation to GUIDANCE no later than **MAY 27th, 2016**.

GOWNS — **The gown/ticket package is \$75.** All students are required to purchase the package, which includes:

- Gown, V-Stole, Cap and Tassel in school colours. These are all yours to keep as a memento of the ceremony
- 2 guest admission tickets, 2 keepsake Graduation Ceremony Programmes
- RHHS folio with graduation class composite photo included with space for your diploma
- Hall rental and light refreshments served at the end of the ceremony
- Pre-ceremony pizza (2 slices each) provided for all graduates

You must select your Gown size and complete your payment, both online at School CashNet by **MAY 27th, 2016**. Additional tickets will also be available to be purchased online through School CashNet at the cost of **\$15.00 per ticket**.

First semester graduates are advised to have their orders in by Tuesday January 26th 2016.

AWARDS — Some awards are determined by marks, but there are many special awards for which you must apply. Applications are available on the RHHS School website-Guidance page and copies are available in the scholarship bin in Guidance. Read the description sheet carefully. If you meet the requirements, complete the application form, available as a PDF on the RHHS website. Your application must be completed by the deadline listed below for consideration and submitted to **Ms. Axelrod in guidance by: MONDAY MARCH 21st, 2016, 3:45 PM.** Each award you apply for requires a separate completed application.

INVITATIONS AND TICKETS - This year's Graduation Ceremony is being held at the **The Terrace Banquet Centre**, 1680 Creditstone Road, Vaughan. Tickets are required for the entrance of all guests and will be asked to be shown at the entrance door.

Two guest tickets are included in the \$75 gown/ticket package fee. **Additional tickets are available to purchase at the cost of \$15.00 each. YOU MUST PICK UP TICKETS AND THE INVITATION TO ATTEND WHEN THEY ARE AVAILABLE** (in June). Gowns, stoles, cap /tassels and folios will be distributed at the same time in June.

VALEDICTORIAN - PLEASE TURN OVER FOR DETAILED INFORMATION



IMPORTANT DATES/DEADLINES TO REMEMBER:

March 21	Graduating Awards applications due to Ms. Axelrod in the Guidance Office
May 27	Gown Size and Payment Completed on School CashNet online
May 27	40 Community Service Hours must be submitted to the Guidance Office
June 17	Any/All Credits earned outside of day school must be submitted to Ms. Lam in the Guidance Office with original signed and sealed transcript or report card

SO YOU THINK YOU CAN BE A VALEDICTORIAN...

The valedictorian is the member of the graduating class who speaks at commencement and says “goodbye” on behalf of all graduating students. The speech is a highlight of the ceremony, but is also different from “election” speeches because the audience consists not only of staff and students, but also community members and parents. The challenge is to create a unique and sincere speech that maintains the formality of the evening. It is not the time to boast about individual accomplishments and experiences; neither is it the time to thank one’s favourite teachers or family members!

If you are interested in applying for this honour, please note that the process is very specific:

STEP 1:

1. Indicate your intention to be considered as a candidate for Valedictorian by completing a nomination form. These forms are available here today and will be available on the RHHS website-Guidance and in the scholarship bin in the guidance office.

The nomination forms will be due **Friday April 15th, 2016**, and they require the following:

- Your name
- Your Student #
- You must identify how you have been involved in the school community
- You must demonstrate that you have achieved academic success (please note: academic success looks different for every person and it is not synonymous with academic excellence)
- You must demonstrate how you have made a positive contribution to the student body; at all grade levels, not just your own grade
- You must include, in addition to the above information, a minimum 3 paragraph typed response to the following statement:
 - ✓ *“I should be the Valedictorian for the Class of 2016”*
- You must include a copy of your most current Credit Counselling Summary
- Your nomination form must be signed by 10 members of your graduating class, endorsing your intent
- All 10 peer supporters must legibly provide their names, student #s and signatures
- Nomination form must be endorsed by 2 staff members (names to be printed legibly and signed)
- Nomination form must be endorsed by 1 administrator (name to be printed legibly and signed)

STEP 2:

1. In the middle of May, all successful candidates will have an opportunity to showcase their personalities and attributes to their graduating class.
 - Each candidate will create a 2-minute video
 - This will be the medium through which each of your classmates will determine if you should be the successful candidate for Valedictorian
 - Each member of the graduating class will have the opportunity to cast 1 ballot for the candidate of their choice
 - The 3 individuals with the highest number of votes will proceed to the final step of the selection process

STEP 3:

1. Write a valedictory ‘speech’. When read aloud, your ‘speech’ should run 3-5 minutes. Work should be typed in MLA format. Though the work is written and well organized, it should not read like a formal essay! Your voice should come through! (Appropriate grammar and spelling are still required!)
2. The final 3 candidates will present their ‘speech’ to a committee.
3. The committee will select the successful candidate after each student has presented his or her ‘speech’.
4. The name of the Valedictorian will be announced to the graduating class and staff at the beginning of June.
5. The selected candidate will have a series of “read throughs” to polish and edit their work.