



2023 RSS Spring Grad Information Letter

Please Note: Receipt of this letter is not verification that your son/daughter is graduating. Students must verify their graduation status with their school counselor.

This letter is intended to give you crucial information leading up to our two major Grad Celebrations: The RSS Grad Walk and Prom, and the RSS Commencement Ceremonies. Due to the costs associated with Grad Celebrations, a \$75 Grad Fee has been added to your Grad's student account. In order to participate in either the Prom and/or Commencement Ceremony, students must have returned any overdue textbooks and paid any outstanding student fees (or made payment plan arrangements with your alpha administrator).

Starting **Monday April 24th to Friday April 28th**, in room 1057 (Ms. Harvie's Classroom) at 11:45 am **only**, your child will have **5 school days** to buy Prom tickets. This process will involve a one-stop shop for **ALL** graduation events!! There is a volunteer Grad Parent group who have taken on the task of organizing the Prom and they have been working tirelessly fundraising and planning to make this event a success for our students. Due to their fundraising efforts, tickets are \$50 each. Payment can be made either by cash or using the square electronic payment system. An important change for this year is that the date policy for the Prom has changed moving forward. Tickets may only be purchased by and for RSS Grade 12 students. We know that change undoubtedly brings disappointment for some, but our goal is to ensure the safety of all of our students attending school-sanctioned Grad events.

The **RSS Commencement Ceremonies** will be in the **RSS Gym on Saturday June 24, 2023**. Each Grad will be entitled to claim up to **eight (8) guest tickets** (this is more than double the number of tickets that were available at our previous ceremony location). Grad Gowns and Ceremony tickets may be collected from Room 1057 (Ms Harvie's classroom) at 11:45am from **Thursday June 1st to Friday June 9th**. Grads had an opportunity to sign up for one of six ceremony sessions throughout the day in early April. A reminder of their

time selection will be provided when they collect their gown, but Grads can also confirm their selection using the spreadsheet in the Grad Google Classroom.

Process for Purchasing Prom Tickets/Collecting Grad Gowns

In order to buy a ticket for Prom and/or collect their gown the student must:

1. Be in a calculable position to graduate. Any student who is not meeting graduation requirements will be directed immediately to the counsellors and may not proceed.
2. Have returned any outstanding textbooks and paid all student fees, including the \$75 Grad fee. If this poses a problem, parents may set-up a payment plan with their alpha administrator, but they will not be able to collect their gown package until arrangements are in place. Students or families who have paid or returned items after Wednesday April 19th may be asked to provide a receipt of the items returned or paid for.
 - a. Fee payments can be made to Ms Banka in the school office.
 - b. Outstanding library items and/or textbooks can be returned to the library.
3. Students who have already submitted their Grad Information Sheet will be asked to confirm their message (thanks and future plans) and, if necessary, make minor alterations. If students are not prepared or do not wish to provide a personal message then their name will be read with a simple congratulatory message. Without exception, there will be no codes, initials, or content inappropriate for formal ceremony permitted. Students who choose to submit such items will have a simple congratulatory message recorded in their place. **These messages cannot be changed after FRIDAY JUNE 9th, without exception.**
4. Honour Stoles earned for their grad service contributions or for honorary titles will be awarded in line and **MUST BE WORN** during their ceremony session. Students will be asked to confirm if they have completed an Advanced Placement program (which requires writing at least one AP exam). Gold cords will be distributed in line and **SHOULD BE WORN** during their recorded stage clip.
5. Students will pick up their keeper cap and gown package. Students who submitted their Grad Gown Request before April 7th will be guaranteed their size selection based on their height. Students who did NOT submit their size selection will be accommodated to the greatest extent possible. The cap and gown are souvenir commemorative items and do not need returning after the ceremony

recording. The custom v-stole students must be returned after the ceremony session before leaving the school-- they were made possible by a generous gift by the RSS P.A.C.

Unfortunately, it is not possible to exchange gowns once they have been removed from their packaging. It is **VERY IMPORTANT THAT STUDENTS ARE PRESENT** to pick up their gowns and, in rare cases where this isn't possible, the person collecting their gown **MUST KNOW THEIR PRECISE HEIGHT** without shoes.

OTHER IMPORTANT PROM INFORMATION:

The RSS Prom is at Hillcrest Farms event space, on Friday, May 26th. Grads wishing to participate in the Grad Walk and Prom must meet at the Dolphins no later than 4:15 pm, will be marshaled for the processional starting at 4:30, with the Grand March commencing as soon as possible after this. Students attending the Prom will move directly from the Grand Walk to board buses to Hillcrest so we encourage families to take pictures with their Grads before the Walk. Students **MAY NOT SELF TRANSPORT TO PROM.**

OTHER IMPORTANT CEREMONY INFORMATION:

The RSS Commencement Ceremonies will be held in the RSS Gym on Saturday June 24th, 2023. Students are asked to arrive a minimum of 15 minutes prior to their session start time and will check in to the lower dance room via the outside doors. Guests will be invited into the gym at the start time listed for their ceremony session via doors on the arena/East side of the building. Guests **must provide their ticket** to enter the ceremony.

We ask all ticket holders attending the Commencement Ceremonies to stay for the entirety (approximately 1 hour in length). A link to a compilation of all the ceremonies will be made available through a link on the school website the week after and sent to Grade 12 parents through the school messenger service.

We thank you for your patience and understanding as we work to honour our Grads of 2023.