

2026 GRAD YEAR INFORMATION

Hello RSS Grad families. This letter is intended to give you information regarding the time, place and cost of the major functions for the Grade 12's in 2026. **Any events other than those listed below are NOT SANCTIONED by the school, and we advise you to use extreme caution in allowing your child to attend any non-sanctioned events.**

Please be aware that your child must be in a mathematical position to graduate in terms of earning graduation credits in order to participate in year end graduation events.

SCHOOL SANCTIONED EVENTS

Grad Wear

RSS Grad Hoodies will be available for purchase in four rounds (available in classic black or white, and a third color to be announced in October). Hoodies are \$50.00 each. In order to purchase and select an appropriate size, Grads must pay for the hoodie online by going to the following link (<https://centralokanagan.schoolcashonline.com/>).

ORDERS NOT PAID BEFORE THE ORDER DEADLINE WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE FOR DELIVERY

	Order Deadline	Estimated Delivery
Round One Black, White	October 9th	Week of November 3rd
Round Two Black, White, TBD	November 21st	Week of December 15th
Round Three Black, White, TBD	February 6th	Week of February 23rd
Final Round *NO ORDERS AFTER CUT-OFF* Black, White, TBD	March 11th	Week of April 7th

Grad Photos

November 5th– November 23rd

You will see a link in the 2026 Google Classroom, the 2026 Grad page and posted on the school website. Please book a time as soon as possible-- there ARE enough time slots available for all grads to be photographed but students that wait until the last minute to schedule a sitting time may find that the dates and times are very limited. There is a \$60 **REFUNDABLE** deposit at the time of sitting with no obligation to purchase any photos. Should you decide not to order photos, you can request to have the deposit refunded back to you; for those ordering a photo package, the \$60 deposit will apply directly towards the cost of the package. **In order for Grads to be included in the Yearbook and the Composite Photo, students must have a picture taken by Artona.**

Yearbook

Yearbooks are \$50 (early bird pricing), so buy them now! All students pre-ordering a yearbook will be accommodated, but only a VERY LIMITED number are available for purchase in June. Avoid disappointment by ordering now!

Crystal Ball (Winter Semi-Formal) Thursday December 11th, 2025 *RSS Grads ONLY in the Forum

TENTATIVE Prom and Grad Walk

May 22nd, 2026

Grad Walk: RSS Grads and guests

Prom: RSS GRADS ONLY

We have bookings in place but our date is always contingent on approval of the City of Kelowna for booking the boardwalk/Dolphins (should be confirmed late 2025)

Parents of Grads: The Prom is now a parent organized, school-sponsored event. In hosting and fundraising for an event of this magnitude, organizational meetings, fundraisers, and volunteer opportunities will arise that require Grad parent support. If you are interested in joining this committee please email: rutlandseniorgradparents@gmail.com and/or provide your information at the Grade 12 Information Night. Once a parent group is established their preferred method of contact will be shared.

Commencement Ceremonies

Saturday June 20, 2026

**The ceremonies will be in six mini ceremonies held in the RSS Gym*

**Students will sign up for their session time before Spring Break and through until the end of April. Students who do not self-select their ceremony session will have one assigned as space allows*

Information Distribution

We use a number of electronic methods to distribute information to Grads and their families. In order to make sure that you know important timelines and dates and, as well, that you receive updates on upcoming scholarship and bursary applications we recommend that:

1. Your **GRAD** is enrolled in the Grad Google Classroom. The enrollment code is:
4bzt7amf
Please encourage your Grad to “allow notifications” so that important information is not missed.
*Due to classroom permissions, only students may sign-up for the Google Classroom
2. Please **confirm** that your phone number(s) and e-mail addresses on file are correct with the school office. Grade 12 parents will be emailed and/or texted when particularly important and/or time sensitive items arise.
3. Follow @rutlandgrad on Instagram!
4. A Grad Website is in development. Follow the link provided on the school website or go to:

<https://sites.google.com/learn.sd23.bc.ca/rssgrad/home>

GRAD FEES

There are considerable costs associated with events being organized by RSS for student participation.

The Grad fee for 2026 is \$65.00

These fees go to, but are not limited to:

- Gown purchase and shipping
- Miscellaneous expenses during the year for grad activities (advertising, thank yous, etc.)
- Printing of invitations, tickets, programs
- AV equipment rental and security
- Decorations, flowers, lighting for ceremonies
- Graduation caps and tassels
- Music expenses, decorations and miscellaneous costs for Crystal Ball
- Rental of outside facilities (e.g. City of Kelowna Boardwalk) and audiovisual production costs
- Award photos and awards

Refund on Fees

We expect that all students who have the potential to graduate will participate in the Grad Ceremonies. Once grad gown orders are placed (mid-April) and because of the expenses incurred related to that event, there will be **No Grad Fee Refund after the grad gown order deadline.**

***Once a student participates in a school sanctioned grad event-
a refund will NOT be issued.***

- Please note that the school does not make any money by charging these fees as public schools are not-for-profit . The fees listed are for the purchase of supplies directly related to celebrating our Grads and/or rental of outside facilities.

Our first priority remains the safety of our students and staff. We have learned to provide these Grad events for our students in different ways than we had prior to the pandemic. Much of what we have learned has changed some of these experiences and improved these events for our families.

We hope that the information contained in this letter will be useful to you. We look forward to a great year for all of our grade 12 students. If you have any further questions please contact our VP Responsible for Grad, Rani Gandham, by e-mail (rani.gandham@sd23.bc.ca) who will answer all parent communications.

Sincerely yours,
Hugh Alexander, Principal
Rutland Senior Secondary