

# RUTLAND

## SENIOR SECONDARY

### **2026 RSS Spring Grad Information Letter**

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

There are three major year-end celebrations for RSS Grads: the Grad Walk; the Prom, and the Commencement Ceremonies. These events are all school-sanctioned and the school's Code of Conduct applies.

Due to the costs associated with Grad Celebrations, a \$60 Grad Fee has been added to your Grad's student account. Fee payments can be made online through [Central Okanagan SchoolCash Online](#) or to Ms. Banka in the office. 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).

#### **The Grad Walk**

The Grad Walk is a **no-cost event** for our RSS Grads held on Friday June 5, 2026. Grads wishing to participate in the Grad Walk are allowed to meet starting at 3:00p.m. at the Dolphins (Downtown). Grads **must** be at the Dolphins no later than 4:15 pm, and will be gathered for the Walk starting at 4:30. The Grad Walk will start as soon as possible after this. Grads walk in pairs in formal wear (dresses, suits, tuxedos) so that families, friends and community members can celebrate our students.



## THE PROM

The RSS Prom is an event held at Hillcrest Farms with food, dancing and other activities, on Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup> immediately after the Grad Walk. Students attending the Prom will move directly from the Grad 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.**



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 the hard work and dedication of the RSS Parent Committee prom tickets were set at **\$60**. The RSS grad community is profoundly grateful to the Grad Parent Group for their efforts to make this accessible for the majority of our Grads.

**Ticket sales are closed and no additional sales are possible.** Tickets were sold from the Seminar Room from April 7-15th during lunch breaks. Additionally, students who graduated early or are enrolled in a Dual Credit program outside of RSS were given the opportunity to purchase tickets the evening of Monday April 13th. Prom tickets were only able to be purchased by and for current RSS Grade 12 students. We know this may be a disappointment for some, but our goal is to ensure the safety of all of our students attending school-sanctioned RSS Grad events.

Students attending Prom **must** also **complete the Parent Permission form** which was sent home with students May 8th and hand it in to Mr Werry or Ms Robinson in the Career Counselling Center **no later than Wednesday May 27th, 2026.**

## THE COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES

The **RSS Commencement Ceremonies** will be in the **RSS Gym** on **Saturday June 20, 2026**. Each Grad will be entitled to claim up to **eight (8) guest tickets**. Although we hope as many Grads will participate as possible, it is not required that you attend the ceremony in order to receive your diploma.



The RSS Commencement Ceremonies will be held in the RSS Gym on **Saturday June 20th, 2026**. Students are asked to arrive a minimum of 15 minutes prior to their session start time and will check in to the main entrance doors on the east (arena) side of the building. Guests will be invited into the gym, as soon as the previous session has exited the gym, to start at the session time via doors on the arena/East side of the building. **Every guest in attendance (including small children) must provide a ticket** to enter the ceremony. All seating is first-come, first-served but provisions will be made for guests who need accessible seating.

We ask all ticket holders attending the Commencement Ceremonies to stay for the entirety (approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes in length). *Details of a streamed option are being coordinated, but **live** streaming may not be possible this year.*

## **Process for Picking Up Cap/Gown Packages and Ceremony Tickets**

Grad Gowns and Ceremony tickets may be collected from Room 1264 (Seminar Room) at 11:45am from **Monday June 1<sup>st</sup> to Wednesday June 10<sup>th</sup>**. Grads had an opportunity to sign up for one of six ceremony sessions prior to Spring Break, with additional opportunities to sign-up during Prom Ticket Sales. Students who did not select a time before Wednesday May 6th had a session assigned to them.

To collect their Cap and Gown/Ceremony Tickets:

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 \$60 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 Thursday May 28th 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.
  - a. 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 5<sup>th</sup>, without exception.**
4. Students will pick up their keeper cap and gown package.
  - a. Students who submitted their Grad Gown Request before April 7<sup>th</sup> 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.

5. Students may pick up up to eight (8) tickets. A reminder that every guest attending the ceremony needs a ticket, no matter their age. If you do not need all of your tickets, you may give them to anyone else also in your same session, but they cannot be used for other times.
  - a. 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.

We thank you for your patience and understanding as we work to honor our Grads of 2026.