

*North Surrey Secondary*

Home of the Spartans



Graduation Newsletter



Dear Spartan Families,

I hope this message finds you well and excited for the upcoming Grad season. The purpose of this newsletter is to provide important information regarding upcoming dates and activities that pertain to graduation. Please share the information with your child and do not hesitate to contact the school if you require further information.

The next few months are extremely busy and there are important tasks and deadlines that our Grade 12's need to attend to. The key to a successful graduation is clear communication and organization as we navigate the rest of the school year. I know you will continue to support your child in these regards and in their studies. I also ask for your support in encouraging your child to get involved in creating positive legacies for themselves as Senior Spartans.

In our communication with grads, we will continue to reinforce the ideas of "Passing it Forward" and being positive role models for our junior students. Instead of grad pranks that are harmful to our school legacy, and that can result in student discipline and costly repairs, I am asking our grad class of 2023 to be positive contributors to our school community. In addition, I have also included a joint letter from our school district and the Surrey RCMP, that provides further information related to Grad activities and student safety.

With graduation there are many events that occur in the name of "North Surrey Grad 2023". The school does not condone, nor approve non-sanctioned events, such as grad camping, S-trips, boat cruises, Whistler weekends, or other non-supervised events outside of the school. The administration of North Surrey Secondary only approves school-sanctioned events that adhere to the District and school Code of Conduct with appropriate levels of adult supervision. School-sanctioned events that are planned for this year's graduating class include:

- In school events, such as Grad BBQs/Breakfasts
- Grad Dinner/Dance at the Swaneset Golf and Country Club
- Dry Grad at North Surrey Secondary organized by parents for grads
- Commencement Ceremony at the Bell Performing Arts Centre for grads, families, and friends

As we move closer to graduation, I know all of our grade 12 students will continue to keep focused, work hard, and be positive role models for our younger Spartans. I look forward to supporting your child throughout the rest of the school year.

This newsletter and other updates are also available on the school website at

<https://www.surreyschools.ca/northsurreysecondary> under Resources tab/Graduation Information.

Thank you,

Mr. Stefan Stipp

North Surrey Secondary



September 28, 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Re: Community Youth Activities "Grad Pranks"

As we settle into the new school year, we are reminding parents, guardians, and students of our 2023 graduating class, of the expectations regarding pranks and celebrations.

Celebrating educational milestones is a tradition; however, there have been incidents in the past of unsanctioned activities that have crossed the line from good-natured fun, to criminal activity

This fall, social media trends have also amplified acts of theft and vandalism in schools across the region. We are asking your help to ensure your son or daughter is aware that unsafe or unlawful activities can have serious, lasting, consequences. Youth who participate in criminal activity could face criminal charges or school sanctions. These sanctions may include exclusion from graduation activities such as commencement ceremonies, suspensions, and can affect students' eligibility for scholarships and postsecondary admissions.

It is also important for parents and guardians to know they may be held financially responsible for damage caused by their children. Please see the attached excerpt from the *School Act*.

It is important that we work together to ensure that our young people do not take part in, or condone (provoke, encourage, or support):

- *Bullying, cyberbullying, harassment, threat(s) or intimidation;*
- *Violence of any form;*
- *Verbal, physical or sexual harassment or abuse;*
- *Discrimination in any form;*
- *Theft;*
- *Unsafe or dangerous activities;*
- *Vandalism;*
- *Possession or use of intoxicating or banned substances;*
- *Possession or use of weapons (or replica weapons) and explosives.*

We ask that you understand the position of both the district and all our schools in taking the necessary disciplinary steps where appropriate, to ensure the safety and security of our school community.

Over the years, students from the graduating class have planned unsupervised camping trips or other group activities. Sadly, some of these activities have resulted in injuries and even deaths, due to impaired driving, or misadventure. We support your decision to not permit your son or daughter to attend unsupervised events. If you are uncertain about the status of an event, please give the school administration a call.

This letter may feel like a dire warning, however, it is because we want to keep your children safe and successful, that we take this matter so seriously.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

Mr. Mark Pearmain  
Superintendent of Schools/CEO

Brian Edwards  
Assistant Commissioner, Officer in Charge Surrey Detachment



The logo features the word "dates" in a green, rounded font with each letter inside a green circle. Below it, the word "Remember" is written in a purple, cursive script. A small "to" is positioned between "dates" and "Remember".

March 1	Graduation Newsletter Published
March 1	Grads Must Clear All Debts to Purchase Tickets
March 28	Grad Dinner/Dance and Parent Reception tickets purchase on School Cash Online <a href="https://surreyschools.schoolcashionline.com">https://surreyschools.schoolcashionline.com</a>
April 3	Guest Pass Applications Available (at student window before school, lunch or after school)
April 11th	Valedictorian Applications Available
April 25	Grade 12 Assembly (Block A - Theatre)
April 28	Grad Guest Pass Applications Due (to the office)
May 1-4	Dry Grad Tickets through Cash Online (must also purchase a dinner dance ticket)
May 1-4	Grad Dinner/Dance Table Selection for Grads Who Have Purchased Tickets Online at Lunch in Room 205
May 1	Valedictorian Applications Due (to the office)
May 26	Dry Grad Bag Drop Off at North Surrey, 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Sunday, May 28	Grad Dinner/Dance at Swaneseet Country Club, 5:00 – 11:00 p.m. / Class Photo at 5:00 p.m.
May 28	Dry Grad at North Surrey 11:30 pm to 5:00 a.m.
June 2	Commencement Tickets Distribution 3:00 p.m. (Centre Court) (3 tickets per student)
June 2	Mandatory Commencement Rehearsal in Block B in North Surrey Large Gym
June 6	Commencement Ceremony at Bell Performing Arts Centre (grads report at 5:00 p.m.) Ceremony Begins at 6:00 p.m.

# Commencement

The Commencement Ceremony will be held on **Tuesday, June 6, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.** at **The Bell Performing Arts Centre** at Sullivan Heights Secondary School (6248—144 Street, Surrey). Students need to arrive **no later than 5:00 p.m.** to prepare for the processional and ceremony. The Commencement Ceremony for families and friends of grade 12 students will start at 6:00 p.m. in the theatre with doors opening at 5:30 p.m. Tickets **must** be presented at the door. **Grads do not need a ticket**; however, all family and guests must have tickets.

Each grad will receive three (3) **Commencement tickets** free of charge. These tickets will be distributed after school on **Friday, June 2nd** in Centre Court. Only students who have paid the grade 12 graduation fee, student fees and all other debts will be issued tickets.

A lottery for a possible **fourth** ticket (at a cost of \$5.00) will be held after Commencement tickets are picked up. These will be distributed after school on Monday, June 5, 2023. Students requesting one additional ticket may do so but these will be allocated one at a time. Families should also be aware that this formal ceremony often lasts three hours or longer and is not suitable for small children. If you choose to bring a child they will also require a ticket.

Grad gowns will be delivered to Block A teachers on Friday, June 2. If you have a spare during Block A gowns may be picked up in centre court.

All grads must attend a **mandatory rehearsal on Friday, June 2nd in Block B in the NSS large gym.** They will receive important information regarding procedures for the Commencement Ceremony.

# Class Valedictorian

At North Surrey Secondary we value academic success, extra-curricular involvement and student leadership. The ideal Valedictorian is an academic student who has attended NSS for three or more years who has been actively involved in one or more areas of our school community and is seen as a strong leader amongst their peers.

- Student can be nominated by teachers or self-nominate. Applications will be available in the office and on TEAMS on April 11<sup>th</sup>. They will be available to submit to Mr. Khaira or the office until Monday May 1<sup>st</sup> (3.00 pm)
- Student gives a speech at the Commencement ceremony (farewell address)
- Student must be able to write and deliver a thoughtful, well-organized and well-presented address
- Graduating class will endorse the candidate from a shortlist of possible graduates as generated by a Committee of teachers

# For Grad Dinner/Dance and Dry Grad Festivities

## Guest Pass

Any guest invited to the Grad Dinner/Dance and Dry Grad festivities, **who is not a member of the North Surrey Graduating Class of 2023,** must receive official written approval from North Surrey Administration. This includes grade 11 guests from North Surrey. Guests can be grade 11 students from North Surrey or grade 12 students from another school or graduates from June 2022.

Students who would like to bring a guest can pick up a Guest Pass Application Form from the student window before school, lunch hour or after school **beginning Monday, April 3.** Please fill out the application (completely) and return it to the office **no later than April 28.**

Both students and guests should note that **all school rules apply at both events.** Students are advised that use of alcohol, drugs, vapes, cigarettes, cigars before or during these events will result in removal from the festivities and consequent disciplinary action (and ticket costs will NOT be refunded). **Late “guest applications” will not be accepted.**

Grad will be advised if their guest application is approved. Once approved, the ticket price will be added to the cash online. Your guest, once approved, will also be allowed to attend Dry Grad. The grad will be required to purchase that ticket as well in person during Dry Grad ticket sales.

# Grad Dinner/Dance

Swaneseet Country Club  
16651 Rannie Rd, Pitt Meadows, BC

Sunday, May 28, 2023  
5:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Photo of the “Class of 2023” will be taken at 5:00 p.m.  
at Swaneseet Country Club.

Check-in at the Swaneseet Country Club starts at 5:15 p.m. (after class photo)  
Parent Reception 6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.—\$5.00 per ticket (maximum 2 per student) –  
option to purchase these tickets is also on cash online.

Dinner for grads at 7:00 p.m.

All school rules apply:

Possession or use of alcohol, drugs, vapes, cigarettes or cigars is not permitted.

## Ticket Sales

Begin online at School Cash Online March 28  
<https://surreyschools.schoolcashonline.com>

Dinner/Dance tickets - \$125.00

Purchase your Dinner/Dance, Parent Reception  
tickets online at cash online prior to choosing a  
table. Bring your receipt to table selection.

## Table Selection at Lunch

May 1 to May 4

Room 205

- Choose your tables with grad sponsor teachers in Room 205.
- Come with your group of people you want to sit with.
- NO reserving for grads that have not paid.
- NO switching.
- If you wish to bring a guest, you **must** present an approved guest application and receipt that you have paid.
- Payment Methods – School Cash Online Only (bring your receipt)

## Transportation

- **To the Dinner/Dance at Swaneseet**  
Student responsible for their own ride
- **To North Surrey Secondary from Swaneseet**  
*All students return* to NSS by bus.
- **To home following Dinner/Dance from NSS**  
Student responsibility  
(if not attending Dry Grad)
- **To home following Dry Grad from NSS**  
Student responsibility

Dinner/Dance 5:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.  
(depending on your bus departure time)



Dry Grad—11:30 p.m.. to 5:00 a.m.

*Reminder: All grads and their guests will return to  
North Surrey on the bus following the dinner/dance.*

# Dry Grad

Organized by our parent community Sunday, May 28, 11:30 p.m.—5 a.m.

## PARENTS

We need your email! Please contact the Dry Grad committee at [2023nssdrygrad@gmail.com](mailto:2023nssdrygrad@gmail.com) to get updates about the Dry Grad events and all of our fundraisers.

Follow us.

Facebook: 2023 North Surrey Dry Grad

Instagram: @nssdrygrad2023.

Website: <https://www.2023nssdrygrad.com/>

The Dry Grad Committee meets approximately every 2 weeks in the school library, where we discuss, plan, and organize the year-end event.

All parents of graduating students are welcome to join us! The next Dry Grad meeting is in the North Surrey Library at 7pm on March 8th.

An event like this relies on a great deal of volunteers and community support. If you, your company, your employer or anyone in your circle of friends, can support the NSS Dry Grad with a prize donation, a financial contribution or your time, please contact NSS Dry Grad at [2023nssdrygrad@gmail.com](mailto:2023nssdrygrad@gmail.com). Thank you for your kind consideration of this worthwhile event for our graduates on their special night.

---

## SO, WHAT IS DRY GRAD ANYWAY? ...

Dry Grad is a longstanding tradition at NSS that is organized each year for the graduating class by a dedicated parent volunteer committee. It is a parent supervised all-night event and includes entertainment, a variety of activities, food, door prizes and much, much more.

NSS teachers and administrators are not involved in planning Dry Grad but the school supports the event. Dry Grad is solely organized by parents.

A high school graduation party is an *important rite of passage* and jumping off point into adulthood. It is a time to celebrate, a time to say goodbye to childhood, and a time to look to the future. The aim of the Dry Grad event is to reduce the risk of harm to the grads, and the community at large, on a night when risk is unusually high. The size and scope of the party is intended to reflect the grads' achievement and acknowledge the years of hard work they put into completing their high school education.

The party runs straight through until the next morning to ensure that graduates do not leave to go to another party. Parents or other responsible adults pick grads up at the end of the party from North Surrey Secondary, so no one drives home after a sleepless night.



**A clothing check will be set up at the school on Friday, May 26 from 3:00 to 4:00 pm**

where grads can drop off a change of clothes and garment bags so that they can change out of their formal party wear into casual clothing that is more comfortable for the Dry Grad activities. All bags dropped off will be checked for alcohol and drugs and labeled by parent volunteers. This bag will be waiting for them to change into once they arrive at NSS after Dinner and Dance. A private change area and a suitable hanging area for gowns and suits will be provided.

All students will board a school bus immediately after the Dinner Dance at Swaneseet Country Club and will be transported to NSS. **Private transportation returning to the school is not permitted.** Students who purchased tickets to Dry Grad will enter the school for an evening of music, entertainment, photos, food & dancing! Students not attending Dry Grad, must arrange for transportation home from North Surrey.

**All school rules apply: Possession or use of alcohol, drugs, cigarettes, vapes or cigars are not permitted.**

**An inclusive Dry Grad event** – all students with exceptionalities are welcome. EAs can attend with students, and will have early entry/leave privileges, and there will be a quiet room.

# Ticket Sales



Ticket sales will be online via School Cash Online, same time as Dinner and Dance. Please join the Dry Grad committee distribution list by emailing [2023nssdrygrad@gmail.com](mailto:2023nssdrygrad@gmail.com) to get reminders of the ticket sales. Students must purchase tickets to the school sponsored dinner/dance to be eligible to purchase Dry Grad tickets. Tickets is \$100.00. Dry Grad ticket prices are subsidized by **parent fundraising efforts** and are *a separate cost to the Dinner Dance*. Pricing is based on the success of our various fundraisers, parent donations and donations from our business community.

# How Can I Help With Dry Grad?

## Donations

Contributions from parents, family, & personal contacts would help lower ticket cost for students:

- Sponsorship of a game/activity
- Door prizes
- Food & beverages

## Volunteer Help

- Person(s) who could reach out to the Community and local businesses for sponsorship donations
- Volunteer co-ordinator – organize volunteers for shifts during the night of the event
- Prize co-ordinator(s) – help purchase and organize prizes for the event
- Food prep/co-ordinator – food co-ordinator required to plan for food/drinks at event. We need at least one person with a Food Safe Certificate.
- Bus Chaperones – from Dinner/Dance at Swaneseet at 10:30 p.m.

## Stay in Touch

Grade 12 Parents, to volunteer, help with fundraising, or if you just want to learn more, please contact us at [2023nssdrygrad@gmail.com](mailto:2023nssdrygrad@gmail.com) and follow us on Facebook, 2023 North Surrey Dry Grad, or Instagram, @nssdrygrad2023. Our social media accounts are kept up-to date with information about the dry grad event