

North Surrey Secondary

Home of the Spartans

Class of
2024

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 2024 to be positive contributors to our school community. In addition, I have 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 2024." 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 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 under [Graduation Information](#). Thank you,

Mr. Stefan Stipp

Principal

North Surrey Secondary

September 28, 2023

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 2024 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 RCMP Surrey Detachment



March 1	Graduation Newsletter Published
March 1	Grads Must Clear All Debts and pay Grad Fees to Purchase Tickets
March 7-May 10	Dry Grad Tickets sold at lunch in Center Court (must also purchase a dinner dance ticket)
April 2	Grad Dinner/Dance and Parent Reception tickets purchase on School Cash Online https://surreyschools.schoolcashonline.com
April 2	Guest Pass Applications Available (at student window before school, lunch or after school)
April 2	Valedictorian Applications Available
April 23	Grade 12 Assembly (Block D - Theatre)
April 18	Grad Guest Pass Applications Due (to the office) If approved, students will be notified and be able to purchase their guest's ticket online
April 29-May 2	Grad Dinner/Dance Table Selection for Grads Who Have Purchased Tickets Online at Lunch in Room 205
April 19	Valedictorian Applications Due (to the office)
May 17	Mandatory Commencement Rehearsal in Block D (last block) in North Surrey Large Gym. Gown distribution in Block C and ticket distribution will follow the assembly (3 tickets per student at \$5 per ticket)
May 21 st	Extra Commencement Tickets Distribution at 3:00 p.m. (Centre Court)
May 22	Commencement Ceremony at Bell Performing Arts Centre (grads report at 5:00 p.m.) Ceremony Begins at 6:00 p.m.
May 24	Dry Grad Bag Drop Off at North Surrey, 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Saturday, May 25	Grad Dinner/Dance at Swaneset Country Club, 5:00 – 11:00 p.m. / Class Photo at 5:00 p.m.
May 25-26	Dry Grad at North Surrey 11:30 pm to 5:00 a.m.

Commencement

The Commencement Ceremony will be held on **Wednesday, May 22, 2024 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. The ceremony will also be broadcast and a link will be provided for families who want to watch from home.

Each grad can buy up to three tickets for 5 dollars each. These tickets will be sold after the rehearsal for commencement on May 17th (last block). Only students who have paid the grade 12 graduation fee, student fees and all other debts will be allowed to buy tickets.

Extra tickets (at a cost of \$5.00) will be made available on May 21st after school. 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 C teachers on Friday, May 17th. If you have a spare during Block C gowns may be picked up in centre court.

All grads must attend a **mandatory rehearsal on Friday, May 17th in Block D 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 2nd. They will be available to submit to Mr. Khaira or the office until Friday April 19th (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 2024, must receive official written approval from North Surrey Administration. Guests needing an approved application pass include: grade 11 students from North Surrey or grade 12 students from another school or graduates from June 2023.

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 Tuesday, April 2. Please fill out the application (completely) and return it to the office no later than April 18.

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

Swaneset Country Club
16651 Rannie Rd, Pitt Meadows, BC

Saturday, May 25, 2024

5:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Photo of the “Class of 2024” will be taken at 5:00 p.m. at Swaneset Country Club.

Check-in at the Swaneset 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.

Parent reception is **stand-up only with beverages. It is an opportunity to take pictures, listen to welcome speeches and participate in the parent/grad first dance. Following that, parents are asked to leave so the grads can have dinner and continue with their night.

Dinner for grads at 7:00 p.m.

All school rules apply for both the dinner/dance and parent reception:
Possession or use of alcohol, drugs, vapes, cigarettes or cigars is not permitted for students, parents, or any guests at this event.

Ticket Sales

Begin online at School Cash Online Tuesday, April 2
<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

April 29 to May 2 Room 205

- Choose your table group with grad sponsor teachers in Room 205.
- Come with ticket purchase receipts of your group of people you want to sit with.
- NO reserving for grads that have not paid.
- NO switching. If you do not have a group of 10, you will be placed with other small groups.
- 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 Swaneset**
Student responsible for their own ride
- **To North Surrey Secondary from Swaneset**
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.



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.

Page |

Dry Grad

Organized by our parent community Saturday, May 25, 11:30 p.m.—5 a.m.

SO, WHAT IS DRY GRAD ANYWAY? ...

What is Dry Grad?

Dry grad is a long-standing 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 after-grad celebration held at the school (following the formal Dinner event) where a complete prohibition on drug and alcohol use is enforced. The dry grad event offers an exciting variety of fun activities, entertainment, and valuable prizes. It is a once in a lifetime event! Dry grads have established a tradition of drug- and alcohol-free celebrations because they demonstrate that a great party — at any time — doesn't need drugs and alcohol to be fun. The event runs straight through until the next morning to ensure graduates do not leave to go to another party. Parents or other responsible adults pick up grads at the end from North Surrey Secondary, so no one drives home after a sleepless night.

How Does it Work?

PRE-EVENT SET UP

- Clothing check set up at school on Friday May 24 from 3:00 PM- 4:00 PM.
- Grads drop off a change of clothes and garment bags so that they can change out of their formal dinner wear and into comfortable clothing.
- All bags will be checked for drugs and alcohol and labelled by parent volunteers
- This bag will be waiting for the students when they arrive at the school after the formal Dinner
- A private change area and a suitable hanging area for gowns and suits will be provided.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

- To check bags on May 24
- To help with event set-up

EVENT

- **ALL** students will board a school bus immediately after the Dinner Dance at Swaneset Country Club and will be transported to NSS. Private transportation returning to the school is not permitted.
- Students who purchased tickets will be checked in and enter the school for an evening of music, entertainment, photos, food and dancing!
- Students not attending Dry Grad must arrange for transportation home from North Surrey
- The final grand prize will be drawn in the last hour. Students will be served breakfast at the end.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

- Bus chaperones
- To supervise changing rooms at event
- To check students in
- Supervise exits during the event
- Food coordinators
- Volunteer coordinator- organize volunteers for shifts during the event
- Prize coordinator- help purchase and organize prizes for the event.
- Casino dealers (no real money involved!)
- Someone who can reach out to community and local businesses for sponsorship donations

- ❖ All school rules apply: possession or use of alcohol, drugs, cigarettes, vapes, or cigars are not permitted.
- ❖ This is an inclusive event: all students with exceptionalities are welcome.

If you know a business that can support this event, provide a door prize, a cash donation or food donation, (this will be a good opportunity to spread some goodwill in the school community!) please reach out to northsurrey2024grad@gmail.com. All supporters will be acknowledged on our social media and at the event.

DRY GRAD Ticket Sales

March 7 – March 13: EARLY BIRD Pricing \$100

April 10-April 12: REGULAR - \$120

May 8- May 10: FINAL- \$150

CASH, CHEQUE or CREDIT CARD/ DEBIT CARDS ACCEPTED

- We will be set up and selling at school at lunch time on those days. Every student must provide their name, student number and a phone number.
- We will also accept payment by Interac E-Transfer – Please include student name, student number and a phone number in E-Transfer Details.
- We can accept payment by cheques made out to: North Surrey Secondary 2024 Dry Grad. You can leave cheques at the office. Make sure you include student name, student number and a phone number
- Please note that only students attending the school Dinner/Dance can come to Dry Grad or their approved guests.

Dry Grad tickets 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. The Dry Grad committee has been working hard to ensure the ticket prices are not raised this year despite all the suppliers raising their prices. We want everyone to buy at Early Bird pricing. If you miss the deadline, contact Basma/Loa at northsurrey2024grad@gmail.com, or call us at 604-723-9711

Stay in touch! We need your emails:

- Contact us at northsurrey2024grad@gmail.com to volunteer, help with fundraising or if you just want to learn more.
- Follow us on Facebook: [North Surrey Dry Grad 2024 | Facebook](#)
- On Instagram: [North Surrey Secondary Dry Grad 2024 \(@nss_drygrad2024\)](#)

