

*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 2025 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 2025". 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 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, 2024

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 2025 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



March 1st	<b>Graduation Newsletter</b> Published
March 1st	Grads Must <b>Clear All Debts and pay Grad Fees</b> to Purchase Tickets
April 1st	<b>Grad Dinner/Dance and Parent Reception tickets available for purchase</b> on School Cash Online: <a href="https://surreyschools.schoolcashionline.com">https://surreyschools.schoolcashionline.com</a>
April 7 <sup>th</sup> , 8, and 10 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Literacy 12 Assessment</b> (April 7 <sup>th</sup> : Ms. Freeman – Blocks A and D; April 8 <sup>th</sup> : Ms. Peelo – Blocks A and C; April 10 <sup>th</sup> : Mr. Dinesen – Blocks A and C) - if you have not completed the Literacy 12 Assessment and have not already notified the office, please let Ms. O’Brien know via Teams.
April 7th	<b>Valedictorian Applications</b> Available
April 23rd	<b>Grade 12 Assembly</b> (Block D - Theatre)
April 14th-May 1st	Dry Grad Tickets sold at lunch in Center Court (must also purchase a dinner dance ticket)
April 28th-May 1st	Grad Dinner/Dance <b>Table Group Selection</b> for Grads Who Have Purchased Tickets Online in room 205 during lunch
April 28th	<b>Valedictorian Applications by 3 pm</b> Due via email to Ms. O’Brien ( <a href="mailto:obrien_c1@surreyschools.ca">obrien_c1@surreyschools.ca</a> )
Friday, May 23rd	<b>Dry Grad Bag Drop Off</b> at North Surrey, 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Saturday, May 24th	<b>Grad Dinner/Dance</b> at Swaneset Country Club, 5:30 – 11:00 p.m.
Saturday, May 24th-Sunday, May 25th	<b>Dry Grad</b> at North Surrey, 11:30 pm to 5:00 a.m.
May 28th	Mandatory <b>Commencement Rehearsal</b> in Block B in North Surrey Large Gym
May 28th	<b>Commencement Tickets</b> Sale 3:00 p.m. (Centre Court) 3 tickets max per student @ \$5 each Extra tickets will be sold Thu-Fri if available
June 2nd	<b>Commencement Ceremony</b> 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 **Monday, June 2nd, 2025, 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 to enter.

Each grad can purchase up to three (3) **Commencement tickets** for \$5 each. These tickets will be sold after school on **Wednesday, May 28th**, in Centre Court. Only students who have paid the grade 12 graduation fee, student fees and all other debts can purchase tickets.

If there are tickets remaining, an announcement will be posted on the **NS Grad Team** as to when an additional single ticket can be purchased. 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 grade 12 classes on **Wednesday, May 28th**. If grads have a study during the block they are delivered, gowns may be picked up in Centre Court after school that day.

All grads must attend a **mandatory rehearsal on Wednesday, May 28th in Block B in the NSS Large Gym**. They will receive important information regarding procedures for the Commencement Ceremony. If you are currently not attending our school (early grad, district program), please try to make arrangements to attend this assembly. If you cannot, please contact either of the vice principals: Ms. O'Brien or Ms. Christensen.

## Commencement Expectations for Audience and Grads

We want everyone to have a great time at this milestone event so here are a few expectations and reminders to make the day special for everyone:

1. School rules are in effect.
2. Guests must remain seated for the duration of the ceremony; it is disruptive for grads and their guests if people get up and leave in the middle of the event.
3. Please ensure electronic devices are turned off or on silent.
5. The event is a long one; small children may have difficulty sitting through the whole evening.
6. No food or beverages allowed in the auditorium.
7. Families are encouraged to carpool as parking is limited.
8. There is nowhere for graduates to leave personal belongings like coats and purses while on stage. Please leave them with your families.

# 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.

- Students can be nominated by teachers, peers or through self-nomination. Applications will be available in the office and on Teams on **April 7<sup>th</sup>**. They will be available to submit to Ms. O'Brien via email ([obrien\\_c1@surreyschools.ca](mailto:obrien_c1@surreyschools.ca)) by **3 pm on Monday, April 28<sup>th</sup>**.
- 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

### **Valedictorian Criteria**

**Criteria:** During your years at North Surrey, you must have:

- Attained excellent course marks (maintained honour roll standing)
- Demonstrated leadership qualities
- Exhibited exceptional citizenship within our school and community
- Demonstrated strong public speaking skills
- Been involved in extracurricular endeavors
- Established yourself as a good representative of your class/grade

# Grad Dinner/Dance

Swaneseet Country Club  
16651 Rannie Rd, Pitt Meadows, BC

Saturday, May 24, 2025  
5:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Check-in at the Swaneseet Country Club starts at 5:15 p.m.

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 on cashonline.

\*\*Parent reception is standing room only event with beverages. It is an opportunity to take pictures, listen to welcome speeches and participate in the parent/grad 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 - \$150.00

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 28 to May 1 in 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.
- 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.



Dry Grad—11:30 p.m. to 5:00 a.m.

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

# Dry Grad

**Organized by the Dry Grad Committee  
Saturday, May 24, 11:30 p.m.—5 a.m.**

## **Want to stay in the know?**

Parents: We need your email! Please contact the Dry Grad committee at [nssdrygrad2025@gmail.com](mailto:nssdrygrad2025@gmail.com) to get updates about your Dry Grad events. Follow us on Facebook @ NSS Dry Grad 2025 and Instagram @ nss\_drygrad2025

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 on Wednesday, March 5 @ 6:30 pm.

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 [nssdrygrad2025@gmail.com](mailto:nssdrygrad2025@gmail.com). Thank you for your kind consideration of this worthwhile event for our graduates on their special night.

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## **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 25 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 Swaneset 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



Pricing is based on the success of our remaining fundraisers and community donations. Cost is \$100.00 and can be purchased at the school from Dry Grad parents at lunch in Centre court from April 14 – May 1. We will accept cash, debit or credit. Please join the Dry Grad committee distribution list by emailing [nssdrygrad2025@gmail.com](mailto:nssdrygrad2025@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. 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 help to keep our ticket costs low for students:

- Financial donation
- Door prizes
- Food & beverages

### Volunteer Help

- Person(s) who could reach out to the Community and local businesses for sponsorship donations – contact us @ [nssdrygrad2025@gmail.com](mailto:nssdrygrad2025@gmail.com) first to ensure we have not already contacted same
- Volunteers for clothing check on Friday, May 25 from 3:00 to 4:00 pm (both male and female needed)
- Volunteers for shifts during the night of the event
- Volunteers to prep food for event. May 24, TBD
- Bus Chaperones – from Dinner/Dance at Swaneset at ~ 11:00 p.m.

### Stay in Touch

Grade 12 Parents, to volunteer, help with fundraising, or if you just want to learn more, please contact the Dry Grad committee at [nssdrygrad2025@gmail.com](mailto:nssdrygrad2025@gmail.com) to get updates about your Dry Grad events. Follow us on Facebook @ NSS Dry Grad 2025 and Instagram @ nss\_drygrad2025