

George McDougall High School

Graduation Handbook



2023- 24

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Lines of Communication:

There are many ways to access the information that you require.

Please check out the following:

- Refer to this handbook for information regarding general graduation requirements. An electronic copy is on our website.
- Timely information may be distributed through School Messenger. This service will leave a detailed message regarding graduates on your home phone and send an email if you have provided one to the school.
- Students – Google Classroom and email. Parents may request access to this site.

If you are unable to find the information you need via these avenues, please contact the appropriate staff advisor.

Phone (403) 948-5935 and press the extension number or email.

Important Dates:

Student/Parent/Guardian Meetings

October 4- Student Grad Meeting- 11:30am Main Gym
GMHS Grad Info Night – 6:30pm- Main Gym

Grad Photos

Grad picture appointments must be booked online
Online booking link posted on GMHS website mid-October
Sitting Dates- November 20-24
Sitting fee due at appointment- \$20.00

Grad Clothing Order – All Year – Available through on-line store

Pixel Imaging – online – link on website and Google classroom

Josten's ring order- October 10 and October 17- Lunch Hour- Rotunda

Jostens Ring Order – payment plans are online and design your own jewelry. Catalogues are available in the Main Office and Learning Commons. If you missed this date, please visit Jostens website.

First Grad meeting of the year for students

Wednesday, October 4- 11:30am- Main Gym

November 22 – Grad Fair during Lunch- Aux Gym

Graduate gown/t-shirt sizing

November 20 – 24

Grad Photos (Aux Gym Stage). Sitting Fee- \$35.00(covers the sitting, the composite, helps pay for the wall composite and well as the handshake ceremony site costs)

February 09, 2024

Graduate fees paid in full – \$105.00

February 26, 2024- Grad eligibility checklist released

March 22, 2024

Eligibility Checklist due

April 08, 2024

Valedictorian Applications will be available for pickup

April 12, 2024

Valedictorian Application are due to the office

April 16, 2024

Valedictorian Selection Meeting

April 26, 2024

Opt- out Form due

May 1, 2024

Initial graduate list posted

May 10, 2024

Final graduate list posted

May 13, 2024

Valedictorian Address submitted to Administration

May 13, 2024 – Ceremony tickets distributed- 4 tickets included in graduate fees

May 15-16, 2024

Round 2 tickets to be sold (\$5.00 each). The number of tickets per family TBD

Graduation Rehearsal:

Rehearsal Time

- Thursday, May 23, 2024 – 10:00am to noon

Where

- Genesis Place, Airdrie

Student Expectations:

It is **MANDATORY** for all graduates to attend the ceremony rehearsal. The ceremony is an exciting but also stressful occasion, so it is important that the graduates practice what is required of them on that day.

Graduation Ceremony:

Date: Thursday, May 23, 2024

Doors open: 5:00pm

Ceremony: 6:00 pm

Where: Genesis Place
800 East Lake Blvd. NE, Airdrie

Tickets: Graduates do not require a ticket. 4 tickets included in the graduation fees. \$5.00 per additional ticket

Student Expectations:

Arrival: Students to arrive at Genesis Place no later than 5:00 pm

Suggested Dress:

- All students are expected to wear business attire

Photographer:

A professional photographer from Edge Imaging Photography will be at the ceremony to capture the special moment as your graduate is presented with their high school certificate from Principal Bloxham. This is complementary. As this presentation will be professionally captured, we ask that all parents and family remain seated and refrain from taking their own photos. This will help to ensure optimal lighting and timing for this family keepsake.

Graduation Ceremony Parking:

Parking is available at Genesis Place – no cost

Graduates in "Good Standing" " Requirements

The final graduation list of eligible students will be posted May 10, 2024. All graduates **must** be in “good standing” to be able to pick up tickets for the ceremony. The following outlines why a student may not be in "good standing" and therefore **MAY NOT** be eligible to purchase their graduation tickets.

School Fees

- School fees must be paid in full to participate in the events.
- Please see Mrs. Smiley to pay school fees.

Attendance

- Your child is required to attend school. Students are expected to attend regularly and punctually.

Credits

- Your child is at risk or will not meet the credit requirements for an Alberta High School Diploma by June of 2024.

- Please see guidance with any concerns regarding transcripts.

Course standards

- Your child is currently failing a course for which he/she is registered.
- Please see the teacher of the course in which he/she is failing.

Overdue Books

- Books (textbooks or library) have not been returned. Books used in semester 2 do not apply.
- Please see the office regarding book return.

Removed from Extra-curricular activities

- Your child is serving an **RVS (Rocky View Schools) suspension** during the event dates.
- Please see Ms. Brown to discuss the reinstatement process.

It is your son or daughter's responsibility to remedy the above situation(s) before graduation ceremony tickets are distributed.

Please take the Eligibility Form to the person responsible (stated above) so they can approve the update. **Completed forms need to be returned to the Main Office so the tickets can be released.**

Should you have any questions or concerns, please call Liese Reichert, graduate coordinator, at the school 403-948-5935 or email lreichert@rockyview.ab.ca.

Class Valedictorian

- All graduates (grade 12 students) can apply for this year's class valedictorian.
- The Application form indicates the criteria any successful candidates would require for GMHS Class valedictorian. They Are:
 1. Candidates must have been on honor roll for their grade 11 and 12 year with no mark below 80% throughout grades 11 & 12.
 2. Candidates must be an active member in our school activities (extra-curricular programs: sports, intramurals, music programs, etc.) and involved in the Airdrie Community.
 3. Candidates must possess and demonstrate a strong positive attitude during school and after school.
 4. Candidates must have exemplary behavior for the last two school years.

Dates

- April 8, 2024 Valedictorian applications will be made available from the main office
- April 12, 2024 Valedictorian applications are due
- April 16, 2024 Valedictorian presentations
- May 13, 2024 Valedictorian Address Admin. Review

Should you have any questions or concerns, please talk to Ms. Brown.

Opt-Out Form

This form is available at the main office – this form will allow graduates to tell the graduation committee that they do not wish to participate in the graduation ceremony.

Once the form is submitted, the graduate's name will be removed from further communications regarding the actual events.

Please note this does not mean the graduate will not graduate in 2024 but rather will not participate in the graduation celebration.

Graduation Awards:

During GMHS Graduation ceremonies in May, a variety of awards are presented to Grade 12 students in recognition of outstanding achievement in several areas of school life: athletics, citizenship, fine arts. Leadership, service, and exceptional performance. Many of these awards are donated by community businesses. Most of these awards are based on students' performance in their last year of high school.

GMHS Awards Selection Process:

All staff assist the administration in the selection of candidates for all graduation awards. A spread sheet is made available to all staff with all awards listed and their criteria where recommendations are made to the awards committee. The awards committee comprised of administration, guidance and the graduate teacher advisor will take the recommendations and will carefully and impartially select candidates who best suit the criteria of each award. In general, all students receiving awards must have demonstrated exceptional citizenship in the school.

The following is a summary of the major awards and scholarships offered.

Airdrie Driving School (\$500.00)

This award goes to the student that enjoys hands on learning. They have a passion and desire for practical skills development. They wish to pursue a career in a technical or trades occupation.

Airdrie Eye Care Science and Technology Scholarship (\$250.00)

This award is presented to the student that has a passion for communications technology courses like robotics, coding, and computer science and thrived in these classes throughout high school. The student has interest in pursuing a career in this field.

Airdrie Eye Care Schulich Stem Scholarship (\$250.00)

The Schulich Leader scholarships program recognizes students from across Canada who demonstrate excellence in academics and community leadership and plan to study in a STEM (Science, technology, engineering, Math) program. Each year schools across Canada will nominate one student for this scholarship.

Airdrie Registries Fine Arts Scholarship (\$250.00)

Awarded to the student that has shared their talents with the greater community. They have demonstrated hard work, dedication, and a passion for their craft.

Categories include band, choral, drama, literary and visual arts.

Airdrie Registries Humanities Scholarship (\$250.00)

Awarded to the student who has excelled in the Humanities (Social studies, ELA, Modern Languages). This award is based on academic achievement and the student had demonstrated interest in a post-secondary field focused on social sciences.

Chris Hargreaves Memorial Scholarship (\$250.00)

This award goes to the student who supports and models the goals of GMHS and Airdrie. Their key focus is Success Through Effort which is the school's motto. The student is hardworking, independent, achieves a high level of success and values personal achievement.

Edge Imaging Apprenticeship Award (\$500.00)

Awarded to the student who has shown great determination in meeting challenges and maximizing his or her strengths. The student may also have improved their achievements in academics and will be pursuing a career in the trades.

Edge Imaging Digital Editing and Film Scholarship (\$500.00)

This award goes to the student who shows extraordinary talent in a film and video arts form and

demonstrates clear educational or training goals in this field beyond high school.

Governor General's Academic Medal and Certificate

Presented to the top academic student. The recipient is selected based on grade 11/12 marks in all subjects, excluding off campus. This award is a Fall recognition as Diploma marks are factored into the overall calculation.

Knights of Columbus Humanitarian Award (\$300.00)

Awarded to the student who shows exceptional leadership, humanitarianism and a dedication to social issues while demonstrating outstanding service to the broader community.

Principal's Award (up to 5 students selected- \$100.00- per person)

This award goes to the student/s who have persevered through their high school years, overcoming challenges and obstacles, while maintaining academic focus and thriving in their grade 12 year.

Spirit of Youth Award (\$500.00- sponsored by GMHS))

This award reflects the contributions that Constable Dave Henry made to the GMHS community. Constable Henry received the first award. This award goes to the student who exemplifies youth

engagement through excellence, positivity, leadership, and citizenship.

Tim Jackson Memorial Scholarship (\$250.00)

This award is presented to the student who has made outstanding service contributions. They are actively involved in organizing or working at community events and school activities. They model respect, courtesy, and empathy of others.