

# **George McDougall High School**

## **Graduation Handbook**



**2024- 25**

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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 grad 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 2<sup>nd</sup>-Student Grad Meeting- 11:30am Main Gym

October 3<sup>rd</sup>- 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 4-8

Sitting fee due at appointment- \$40.00

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

Dudz Teamwear – Link on the GMHS website

## **Josten's ring order- October 21 & 23- 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 2<sup>nd</sup>- 11:30am- Main Gym

## **Grad Fee's Posted- \$125.00**

Tuesday, October 21<sup>st</sup>

## **November 21 – Grad Fair during Lunch- Aux Gym**

Grad gown/t-shirt sizing

## **November 4-8 Grad Photos (Aux Gym Stage). Sitting Fee**

(covers the sitting, the composite, helps pay for the wall composite and well as the handshake ceremony site costs)

**February 10, 2025**

Grad fees paid in full – \$125.00

**February 26, 2025-** Grad eligibility checklist released

**March 24, 2025**

Eligibility Checklist due

**April 07, 2025**

Valedictorian Applications will be available for pickup

**April 14, 2025**

Valedictorian Application are due to the office

**April 16, 2025**

Valedictorian Selection Meeting

**April 30, 2025**

Opt-out Form due

**May 1, 2025**

Initial grad list posted

**May 9, 2025**

Final grad list posted

**May 13, 2025**

Valedictorian Address submitted to Administration

**May 13, 2025** – Ceremony tickets distributed- 4 tickets included in grad fees (The amount of tickets available to families is subject to change)

**May 14-15, 2025**

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

## **Graduation Rehearsal:**

### **Rehearsal Time**

- Friday, May 23, 2025 – 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 graduate's practice what is required of them on that day.

## **Graduation Ceremony:**

**Date:** Friday, May 23, 2025

**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 at this time. 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 on May 9, 2025. 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 2025.
- 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 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 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 Madison Steenhart, grad coordinator, at the school 403-948-5935 ext.6165 or email [Msteenhart@rockyview.ab.ca](mailto:Msteenhart@rockyview.ab.ca).

## **Class Valedictorian**

- All graduates (grade 12 students) will have the opportunity to 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 7, 2025 Valedictorian applications will be made available from the main office
- April 14, 2025 Valedictorian applications are due
- April 16, 2025 Valedictorian presentations
- May 13, 2025 Valedictorian Address Admin. Review

Should you have any questions or concerns, please talk to Mr. Baskerville.

## **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 2025 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. A number 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 spreadsheet is made available to all staff with all the awards listed and their criteria where recommendations are made to the awards committee. The awards committee

comprised of administration, guidance and the grad 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 that were offered last year. This year's awards are TBD.

**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 demonstrate 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 have 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.