

**Grad 2023**  
**General Meeting**  
**Tuesday October 11, 2022**

- **DHS Staff Grad Advisors: Ms. Lerbekmo, Mr. MacDonald, Mrs. Morgan, Mrs. Nielsen**

**1. Diploma Requirements/Scholarship Information/Post-Secondary Planning**

All students will meet individually with Mr. Dick to ensure they are on track to earn a high school diploma this year. Students will also have the opportunity to talk about life after high school at this time. As a reminder, all students received information about Scholarships searches in their grade 11 year and should continue to look for opportunities. Some applications are due in the next several months so it is never too early to get started.

**2. Graduation Format for DHS:**

**a. Cap & Gown**

**DHS Gymnasium                      Friday June 23, 2023                      7:00 pm**

The Cap and Gown is organized and set up by the staff of DHS. This is the formal ceremony in which students receive an “unofficial” diploma. ( the actual high school diploma is sent in the mail directly from Ab.Education) Each student wears the Cap and Gown with the DHS Stole in this ceremony. Students enter into the gym single file and sit as a group. Each grad comes across the stage to be introduced, receives a school completion certificate, and listens to a message from the class valedictorian. **To take part in this ceremony, the grad must meet the minimum government requirement to earn a diploma AND be enrolled in at least 30 credits with DHS in their grade 12 year.** If the student is not in a position to meet both of these requirements by May 19<sup>st</sup>, 2023, he or she would not be allowed to take part in the Cap and Gown. The cost of Cap and Gown will be shared between the school and the participants. The cost charged to grads will be \$30.00 which covers the rental for the gown and the purchasing of the graduation cap. Gowns will be returned the night of Cap & Gown but the caps are kept by students. This ceremony is held in conjunction with our Grade 12 Scholarship Ceremony and is open to the public.

**b. Celebrations Banquet/Planning Committee**

**Didsbury Memorial Complex                      Saturday June 24, 2023**

This is a parent and student planned activity to celebrate the completion of school. The specific agenda for this event is entirely determined by students and parents; DHS Staff Grad Advisors will guide and help where possible, but the planning, decorating, and costs are covered by the grads and families. A **Grad Planning Committee** will be formed in October to begin the process of planning this event. The format for Celebrations will be decided upon during the school year but generally includes:

- Banquet
- Greetings from Town and County representatives
- Toasts (or Tributes)
- Grad prepared slideshow
- Guest Speaker
- Grand March

Parents and Grad 2023 students should be discussing their vision of Celebrations and plan to attend the Grad Celebration Planning Meeting to talk about possibilities. Date for Celebrations Planning Meeting: To be announced at the end of October, beginning of November.

**\*\* Students must complete the Application forms to be considered part of the Cap & Gown and Celebrations events. These are due by the end of October so the planning committee has concrete numbers to start with. Please return the Application forms whether you want to participate or not.**

**c. Costs for Celebrations (NOTE - These are based on Grad 2022 numbers)**

A good cost approximation of the Celebration event as described above is \$240 per grad plus an additional \$25 - \$30 per plate for the meal. (See attachment of Grad 2022 expenses and sample invoice). Other costs for grad could include the Group Picture in the park, Grad Ring from Jostens, Grad Clothing, and Grad Photos from Northern Light Photography. All of these are optional items for the grad and parent to choose or not.

[Banners will no longer be organized by Didsbury High School or The Town of Didsbury. The previous years banners were fundraised for by and organized by the Town of Didsbury for Grads during the time of Covid, but they will no longer provide any assistance in coordinating this project.](#)

**Grads are not allowed to take part in Grad Ceremonies unless school fees are paid.** The school division does have a process to address families who are not able to pay school fees – this information is included on the Student Invoices that are sent out.

\*Financial assistance may be available for grads that need help. Please contact Mr. MacDonald if you may require assistance or you know of a student that might.

**d. Fundraising**

In the last 2 years, a variety of fundraisers have been used to raise money to help offset the cost of graduation ceremonies. Ideas from previous years will be shared at the Parent Organization Committee Meeting. All fundraisers need to be cleared by DHS admin before proceeding in order to avoid conflicts with other school clubs. The breakdown has been 80% towards the individual Grad's fees and 20% towards a Grad pool to help lower the cost of Grad overall.

**e. Safe Grad versus Dry Grad**

DHS cannot be involved in any aspect of Safe Grad due to alcohol being involved. This includes the sharing of information or promoting the event with other parents. If a Safe Grad is planned, please take into consideration the grade 11's should be involved with cleaning the arena before they are allowed to join the safe grad party.

If a Dry Grad is planned, this information can be shared through our website and emails to other parents.

**f. Student Grad Celebration Committee**

The Staff Grad Advisors will hold regular meetings with students who are interested in helping to plan Celebrations. These students will be responsible for collecting input from the grad class to make decisions that best represent the majority of the class's preferences. Representatives of this group will be required to attend the Celebrations Planning Committee to work with the parent group.

**g. Parent Celebrations Planning Committee**

This parent working group helps facilitate the grad class's plans by booking facilities, caterers, light & sound etc. They will also coordinate decorating. The chair will communicate with the student executive and the staff advisor.

**Please email [smacdonald@cesd73](mailto:smacdonald@cesd73) if you would be interested in being on the executive (chair, secretary, treasurer).**

**3. Information**

We will do our best to get information from meetings and upcoming dates on our website. Besides the website "Grad 2023" link, each month we update meetings and events on the calendar portion. For students, the "Grad Board" will be used to share information. Google Classroom will also be used extensively. Get in a habit of looking for new information each week. If you have questions, please call the school.

**4. School Photos**

Grad photos are booked with Northern Light Photography. Parents are not obligated to purchase the Northern Light Photo package, but all students need to arrange for a sitting as this is the photo used for our yearbook and Composite Grad Photo. The DHS Grad Advisors will release details and accept booking times as determined with Northern Light Photography. Typically these take place over the February break.