

Grad 2025

General Meeting

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

Diploma Requirements/Scholarship Information/Post-Secondary Planning – All students will meet individually with our Guidance Counsellors 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 Scholarship 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.

1. Graduation Format for DHS:

a. Cap & Gown

DHS Gymnasium Friday May 23, 2025 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 once all marks are finalized) Each student wears the Cap and Gown with the DHS Stole in this ceremony. Students enter 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.

For grade 12 students to be eligible to participate in our Cap & Gown Ceremony they must be registered in sufficient credits to achieve an Alberta High School Diploma or Certificate of High School Completion. They also will have passed their necessary courses from semester 1 AND have a passing mark or better in all courses required for an Alberta High School Diploma or Certificate of High School Completion on April 15th (or the first school day after April 15th). The cost of Cap and Gown will be shared between the school and the participants. The cost charged to grads will be \$30.00. 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, May 24, 2025

This is a parent and student-planned activity to celebrate graduation. 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 2025 students should be discussing their vision of Celebrations and plan to attend the Grad Celebration Planning Meeting to talk about possibilities.

**** 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. Celebrations Costs

A good cost approximation of the Celebration event is \$250 per grad plus an additional \$30-\$35 per plate for the meal. 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.

School fees must be paid in order to participate in the Grad ceremonies. 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 who need help. Please contact Mr. MacDonald if you may require assistance or if 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 to avoid conflicts with other school clubs.

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. 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.

2. Information

We will do our best to get information from meetings and upcoming dates on our website. Besides the website "Grad 2025" link, each month we update meetings and events on the calendar portion. For students, the "Grad Board" will be used to share information. Get in the habit of looking for new information each week. If you have questions, please call the school.

3. Grad Portraits

Grad Portraits are with Ian and Darlene Photography and the sittings will be held the week of February 17 to 21, 2025. Parents are not obligated to purchase the Ian and Darlene 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 by Ian and Darlene Photography.