

Robert Thirsk High School Graduation 2019

Newsletter #2: Distributed March 15 2019

**Graduation ceremonies begins at 9 AM Thursday, May 30, 2019
and should end at noon at Stampede Corral Arena, Stampede Grounds.**

**Graduation Banquet May 30, 2019 at the BMO Center on the Stampede Grounds.
Doors will open at 5:30 pm, dinner and program will begin promptly at 6:30 pm.**

Teacher Coordinators:

Please contact Mrs. Drake (fjdrake@cbe.ab.ca) if you have any questions for the Ceremony or Banquet

Graduation Requirements:

In order to participate in Robert Thirsk High School's graduation ceremony, students **must have**:

- ✓ Earned a minimum of **100 credits** and have a reasonable plan to complete all required courses for an Alberta High School Diploma by **August 2019**. *Graduating Learning Program students will be advised by their teachers if they have met the required criteria to participate in the ceremony.*
- ✓ Paid their \$50 graduation fee (in September 2018). The graduation fee pays for gown rental, their certificate, Life Touch's photo of each grad as they cross the stage, rental of Coral Arena, AV, and security costs. If the student's fees are unpaid, please speak to the Success Center.

Parking on the Stampede Grounds:

Parking on the grounds will cost \$15 per entry. If you are planning to attend both the graduation ceremony and banquet, you may pre-purchase discounted parking passes for two single entries for \$20. The passes must be purchased through our business office between April 29 and May 6.

Ceremony Audience:

There is plenty of seating at the Corral; therefore, there will not be tickets or a maximum number of guests allowed. We look forward to sharing these moments with many supporters of our graduating class. If your family has a member in a wheelchair, please email Warren Lake at wslake@cbe.ab.ca to make mobility arrangements.

Banquet:

- Ticket cost- \$105/person
- Ticket includes a delicious buffet meal, soft drinks, and an amazing dance to follow dinner. Our Graduation Banquet celebration is a non-alcoholic and non smoking event
 - There is NO IN/OUT privileges (for smoking or retrieving things from your car.).
 - Dietary and religious accommodations can be made. Please see Mrs. Drake.
- Tickets will be sold on InviteRight (teachers in charge is Mr. Holmes).
- Ticket sales are online between April 16 at 9 AM and April 30 at 5 PM. A link will be available on the VLC, Edmodo, and school website. Students will be able to purchase any number of tickets. *Some families choose to send just the graduate to the banquet and therefore it is common for some tables to be made of all graduates while other students will choose to sit with family and friends.*
- We recommend that students coordinate with friends prior to pre-arrange the tables if you would like to sit together, as the banquet hall will have tables of 8 and a few tables of 10.
- *Only fill in special food (i.e. vegetarian, vegan, and religious.) or allergies if the buffet is insufficient for your needs.* You will be served an alternate plate for special requests instead of the buffet (you will not access the buffet if you have a special meal).

VALEDICTORIAN and CLASS HISTORIAN

Congratulations to Anna Olesen, our Valedictorian and Abrar Sakif Rahman, our Class Historian. Thank you to all those students who participated in the Speak Off. Thank you to the students and teachers who attended The Speak Off and provided feedback.

Communication from your Grad Committee:

- The Grad Committee would like to continue the tradition of each graduate donating a toonie as he/she crosses the stage at the ceremony. The Grad class voted and has chosen to donate the funds raised to Children's Link Society. This donation and the tradition will be part of our Graduating Class of 2019's legacy.
- Students voted to wear caps and tassels during the ceremony. A mandatory \$10 fee will be collected May 27 at grad rehearsal. Students will keep their caps and tassels after the ceremony as a keepsake of their day.

Smart Grad Week – May 22-24, 2019:

Many lunch hour and Connect activities are planned for the week. More details to follow.

Graduation Rehearsal – May 27, 28, 29 2019:

ALL GRADS MUST ATTEND a mandatory Grad Ceremony rehearsal during Focus in the gym to receive information on marshalling, rehearsing the entrance processional, crossing the stage and to get a final grad newsletter.

Gown Pick-Up:

Gowns, caps, and tassels will be picked up Monday May 27, 2019 after school in the main gym from 3pm-4pm. Students will return the gown and stole immediately after the ceremony. Please take pictures in your gowns before the ceremony. Students can keep their cap and tassel as a keepsake.

Commemorative RTHS Class Pennants

We thank RTHS Parent Council for sponsoring the Grad 2019 Pennant. These will be distributed to grads in May as a souvenir of their graduation.

Yearbooks:

The \$35 yearbook cost is optional and can be paid in the Business Office by the end of April 2019. Yearbooks will be distributed in September 2019. To receive your Yearbook you have the following options:

1. You could come before classes or after classes (before 4:00PM) to pick up your book.
2. Have Mom, Dad or a sibling pick it up for you before or after classes in the fall.
3. Have it mailed to you. If you would like us to mail it to you, you must bring in a self-addressed stamped envelope. Your envelope needs to be able to fit a 29cm X 23cm book. Take your envelope to the Post Office and buy enough postage to mail an 850 gram book. Then bring the stamped, self-addressed envelope to Ms. Mann in Room 113 before you leave in June and will mail it to you in September.

There will be **signature sheets** available from your Connect Teacher before Grad so that you can get it signed by your friends. These sheets can then be attached to your yearbook when you receive it in September.