

Rick Hansen Secondary: Grad Handbook

Congratulations, Class of 2027! This booklet will help provide some of the most important information regarding graduation and graduation events this year.

To stay current on all event updates, please be sure you join the Rick Hansen Grad 2027 Teams.

Grad Checklist

September

- ☐ All grad fees, outstanding fees, textbooks, etc. paid in order to participate in grad events
- ☐ Grad cruise ticket sale deadline – Sept. 10, 2026. All fees must be up to date.
- ☐ Grad survey (incl. grad gown ordering) – Sept. 11, 2026
- ☐ Grad cruise – Sept. 17, 2026
- ☐ Grad wear orders due (prices on school cash online) – Sept. 30, 2026

October

- ☐ All grad fees, outstanding fees, textbooks, etc. paid in order to participate in grad events
- ☐ Start getting organized for post-secondary applications

November

- ☐ Session 1: Grad assessments – Nov. 2-Nov. 6, 2026 (Literacy and Numeracy)
- ☐ Grad photos Nov 30 – Dec 4, 2026 (Vibrant Photography)

January

- ☐ Session 2: Grad assessments - Jan. 11-22, 2027 (Literacy and Numeracy)
- ☐ Grad Photo Retakes – Jan 20, 2027
- ☐ PSI applications



February

- ☐ Grad breakfast – Feb. 3, 2027
- ☐ Dry Grad – TBA
- ☐ Triple check your DVF - are you meeting grad requirements?
- ☐ Complete PSI selection form
- ☐ Complete Abbotsford Community Foundation Scholarship Applications
- ☐ Application deadline for some major universities
- ☐ Yearbook quotes due to Ms. Harasemow/Ms. Muller (on the Grad Teams) by Feb. 10th

March

April

- ☐ Session 3: Grad assessments – Apr. 12-16, 2027 (Literacy and Numeracy)
- ☐ Book a prom banquet table in groups of either 5 or 10 friends (All fees and ticket must be paid in advance)

May

- ☐ Students enrolled in courses outside of RHSS must be 80% complete and on-track to pass the course by May 1 to take part in convocation. The course should be completed by May 30th to ensure that graduation requirements are met.
- ☐ May 3, 2027 – Prom guest forms available
- ☐ Stage Crossing/Convocation quotes due to admin by May 10th
- ☐ Voting for class valedictorian, etc.
- ☐ May 17, 2027 – Deadline for submitting prom guest applications due to admin.
- ☐ Deadline for purchasing prom ticket is May 17, 2027

June

- ☐ Grad Gown pick up: TBA
- ☐ Grad Convocation rehearsal: TBA
- ☐ Grad Convocation: TBA
- ☐ Final session: Grad assessment - June 7-18, 2027
- ☐ Car & Torchlight parade (RHSS) - June 21, 2027
- ☐ Prom dinner and dance (Swan-e-Set) - June 21, 2027
- ☐ PSI deadline



Grad Expectations

To participate in grad activities including Grad Cruise, prom, and other activities, grade 12 students must demonstrate good conduct, school attendance, and be a good example to their classmates. **In short, you must be a student in good standing.** If a grade 12 student chooses to make a poor decision regarding attendance, drugs, alcohol, or other serious conduct, the administrations may forfeit their privilege to participate in grad events. Grade 12 students are expected to be leaders at school and set a good example with the choices they make.

Sponsor Teachers

General Grad Sponsors	Miss Kooner
Grad Convocation	Miss Kooner
Torchlight Parade	Ms. Gill & Mr. Hague
Prom Dinner and Dance	Mr. Cairns, Ms. DeWolff, Mr. Munro
District Scholarships, Abbotsford Foundation Bursaries and Awards	Ms. Gill and Mr. Hague
General Scholarships	Ms. Gill
Yearbook	Ms. Harasemow
Grad Clothing	Miss Kooner & Mrs. Macdonald/Mangat

Grad Info Meetings

There will be a series of student grad information meetings that will be used to inform the students of important dates and information regarding grad events, completion of necessary forms towards graduation including transcript verification and Abbotsford Foundation Awards.



Graduation Requirements

Be sure to see your counselor for anything related to graduation reqs and PSI info. **(Ms. Gill – A-K, Mr. Hague – L-Z)**

A BC Certificate of Graduation (Dogwood Diploma) is awarded to students who successfully complete the provincial graduation requirements - [Certificates of Graduation - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](https://www.gov.bc.ca/graduation/). To graduate, students require at least 80 credits total. Of these 80 credits:

- 52 credits are required from the following:
 - Physical and Health Education 10 (4 credits)
 - Science 10 (4 credits), and a Science 11 or 12 (4 credits)
 - Social Studies 10 (4 credits), and a Social Studies 11 or 12 (4 credits)
 - A Math 10 (4 credits), and a Math 11 or 12 course (4 credits)
 - A Language Arts 10, 11, and 12 (4 credits required at each Grade, 12 credits total)
 - An Arts Education 10, 11, or 12 and/or an Applied Design, Skills, and Technologies 10, 11, or 12 (4 credits total)
 - An indigenous-focused grad requirement - e.g., B.C. First Peoples 12, English First Peoples 12, etc.
 - [Indigenous-Focused Graduation Requirement - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](https://www.gov.bc.ca/graduation/indigenous/)
 - Career-Life Education 10 (4 credits), and Career-Life Connections 12 (4 credits)
- At least 28 credits must be elective course credits
- At least 16 credits must be at the Grade 12 level, including a required Language Arts 12 course and the Career-Life Connections course.

In addition, students must also complete three Provincial Graduation Assessments:

- Grade 10 Literacy Assessment
- Grade 10 Numeracy Assessment
- Grade 12 Literacy Assessment

Grad Photos

Grad photos are separate from the regular school photos and will occur Nov 30 – Dec 4, 2026. Students must have a picture taken here at the school to be on the grad composite and in the yearbook- this is FREE for all students. There is a \$50 sitting fee with Vibrant Photos for students who wish to purchase grad picture packages (prices as per Vibrant Photos). Retakes are scheduled for Jan 20, 2027.



Graduation Valedictorian

A valedictorian is a representative of the graduating class who speaks on behalf of the graduates at the convocation ceremony. This honour is bestowed on an outstanding representative of the graduating class who:

- ☐ Has attended RHSS for the last two years;
- ☐ Has a high academic standing;
- ☐ Demonstrates Hansen spirit;
- ☐ Has an ability to communicate well;
- ☐ Demonstrates leadership ability;
- ☐ Excels in a variety of curricular and extra-curricular activities;
- ☐ Is an overall, “well-rounded” student, a student in good standing.

Nominated students will be reviewed by admin. and counselors, who will then present a short list of candidates to grade 12 students for their vote.

Yearbook Quotes

Grads will be able to leave a memorable message of 250 characters or less with your grad photo in the yearbook. It must be emailed to Mr. Harasemow and/or Ms. Muller before the end of February.

To avoid disappointment by having your write up altered and/or refused for the yearbook, please adhere to the following rule:

Anything that alludes to, or might allude to, drugs, alcohol, and/or other issues that are in opposition to the student code of conduct at Hansen will be edited and/or refused.



Scholarships, Bursaries, and Awards

Organizations want to give money to deserving graduates... BUT you must apply. Some scholarships, bursaries, and awards will be formally presented at the Grad ceremony. Some ways you can earn money:

- BC Achievement Scholarship \$1250
- District/Authority Award \$1250
- Abbotsford Community Foundation Awards \$500-\$3000
- SSA (secondary School Apprenticeship)
- University/College Entrance Awards \$500-\$5000
- Major Entrance Awards \$4000-\$40,000
- Private/corporate Awards \$50-\$80,000

Dogwood District/Authority Awards

Applications are available from your counsellor.

Criteria

The Dogwood District/Authority Awards will be available to graduates who excel in any of the following areas:

- Fine Arts (Visual Arts, Dance, Drama, Music)
- Applied Skills (Business Ed, Technology Ed, Home Economics)
- Physical Activity (not limited to Physical Education)
- Second Languages (including Aboriginal Languages)
- Community Service

Conditions:

- Must be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident
- Project based scholarship which requires over 100 hours of work during your grade 12 year
- Apply by end of October and complete the project in a focus area by May 10, 2027
- Projects are adjudicated! Final score consists of adjudicated mark, focus mark and grade 12 course marks



Abbotsford Community Foundation

Selected by: Community Panel (Applications in Counselling Centre)

The local community generously provides thousands of dollars to district schools in the way of bursaries and scholarships. The awards have a variety of criteria and qualifications, making them applicable to a wide range of students. For ease of application, all these awards can be accessed by one application form. The application form and the booklet describing the awards will be available online during the first week of February.

- Students apply for these in February submitting Application letter, reference letters, and statement of grades
- Funds provided by Abbotsford businesses, estates, community service organizations, etc.
- Hansen students are typically collectively awarded \$30,000.00 as a grad class
- Abbotsford Community Foundation Donors choose recipients
- Awards vary from \$500 - \$3,000
- Awards are presented at the Grad Ceremony

Secondary School Apprentice Scholarships

To address the shortage of skilled trades people in BC, any student working summers or part-time in the trades can register to become a Secondary School Apprentice and earn up to 16 high school graduation credits for 480 hours of work. SSA students are eligible for a \$1000.00 scholarship if they graduate with a C+ average in their Gr. 12 courses and report a total of 900 hours of work by December 30th of their graduation year. See the Career counsellor for more information.



Grad Events

A student may participate in the ceremonies and other activities only once. Students enrolled in courses outside of Hansen that are required for graduation must be 80% complete to be eligible to take part in the ceremony. Students may participate in the graduation ceremonies only if they are taking a course of studies satisfying provincial graduation requirements by May 1st. Hansen students are responsible for understanding the school's policies regarding participation in graduation and graduation activities, including the School Leaving Ceremony and/or the school sponsored year-end grad activities. A student may participate if s/he meets one of the requirements explained below.

1. As of mid-February of the current school year, the student must be eligible to meet all Ministry of Education Graduation Requirements by the end of the second semester, based on courses already successfully completed and/or courses currently scheduled at Hansen. If students are expecting to meet graduation requirements through courses completed at other accredited BC institutions, they may be considered for re-assignment to grade 12. To be reinstated students must:
 - submit documented proof of registration and successful course completion from an approved educational institution other than Hansen, AVS, night school etc.) directly to their counsellor for evaluation and approval, AND
 - for COURSES IN PROGRESS, arrange an appointment with Mrs. Webster in May. At this meeting, students must present a progress report from their course teacher indicating the amount of the course curriculum that the student has completed and the student's current % grade. Admin will use this information to determine if a student is making good progress toward meeting graduation requirements.
2. A student designated in a Ministry of Education Special Education program who would not otherwise qualify may be considered. The student, parent, and case manager will meet to discuss inclusion in graduation activities during the intended year of graduation. Students who choose this option MAY be eligible to return to Hansen or an alternate grade 13 district program the following year, in consultation with the case manager and parent. If an agreement cannot be reached, the principal will make the final decision.
3. In special circumstances, a student who would not otherwise qualify may be considered if s/he has reached the age of 19 before the end of June of the current school year.

IN ADDITION

- A student who completes graduation requirements at the end of Semester
- One is eligible to take part in the activities noted above ONLY in the Semester Two immediately following. (i.e. June of that school year)
- It is the sole responsibility of all students (especially those who leave Hansen in January) to stay informed of all grad-related deadlines and activities.
- The school administration reserves the right to deny a student inclusion in any or all the events noted above for disciplinary infractions (e.g., grad-related activities causing property damage or reflecting negatively on the reputation of the school, poor attendance, poor classroom performance etc.).

Students and parents have the right to appeal all decisions resulting from this policy to the principal. The appeal must be in writing.

The activities noted above are school-sponsored and are celebrations only. They do not indicate that B.C. Ministry of Education Graduation Requirements have been completed.

Grad Convocation Rehearsal

Students who are participating in the Grad Ceremony are required to attend a rehearsal after school a few days before the ceremony (specific date TBA). Students must find their own rides to the venue and attendance is mandatory. At the rehearsal, students will practice where to line up, what line to be in, and who to stand beside. All students must be present to learn the procedure for crossing the stage.

Stage Crossing Quotes

As students walk across the stage during convocation, a student-written message will be read. Typically, this is a special acknowledgement to loved ones and/or friends, or a plan for the future, or a fun message. Like the yearbook quote, this is a formal event, and as such, language and messaging must be appropriate to the event; no mention of drugs, alcohol, lewd behaviour or obscene language. Grads will complete their 30 words or less quote on an online form starting in March. This will be read and approved by admin.



Grad Convocation

This is a formal ceremony sponsored by the staff and administration of Hansen for parents and the community. Only if you qualify to graduate, you may participate in convocation. If you are not sure if you have completed the requirements, please see your counselor.

Date: TBA
Time: TBA
Place: Abbotsford Centre
Parking: free

Things to know about convocation night:

- If you want to take pictures, arrive early and take the pictures with your family before the ceremony.
- Each Grad will be given a professional photograph of themselves on the stage by Vibrant Photography.
- Graduation is a formal affair. Out of respect for everyone in attendance, during the ceremony, air horns and other loud instruments are strictly prohibited. Please refrain from whistling, yelling or spraying silly string during the presentation of graduates and awards.
- Come to the ceremony already dressed in your grad gown with clothes underneath. (We suggest black dress pants, white dress shirt and black dress shoes, skirts, dresses, or pants with black dress shoes).
- All guests (including children 2 years and older) need a ticket to attend convocation. If you have guests that need wheelchair seating, please contact administration. We do not recommend bringing babies and small children as it is a long ceremony.

Grad gowns will be available for pick up the week of Grad. Exact dates TBA. Students can keep their cap/gown, so you will have lots of time for photographs before and following Convocation. All outstanding school fees must be paid before gowns are given to students.

Convocation Tickets

Each grad will receive 2 complimentary tickets. Extra tickets can be purchased in the office for a small fee. There is no guarantee we can accommodate all extra ticket requests due to venue seating capacity.

You must have paid your graduation fee and all other school fees before picking up your tickets.

Ceremony Gowns

To cross the stage for this formal ceremony, we need to order you a gown. To do this, you need to fill out an application to graduate which is available on the Grad Teams site. This form will tell us your height (with shoes on) which will help us order you the right length gown. School fees must be paid for us to finalize your order in February. Grad gowns will be available for pick up the week of Grad, exact dates TBA.



Dry Grad

Date: TBA

Time: TBA

Location: RHSS

Cost: TBA

Dry Grad is a parent run event. It is an alcohol and drug free event for Hansen Grads only. Stay tuned for more information.

Car & Torchlight Parade

Date: June 21, 2027

Time: 3:45 p.m.

Families of students attending Prom are invited to our Torch Light Parade on from 3:45 - 5:00 pm. This is a wonderful opportunity where parents and students can mingle, take some great photos with all the Grads and their families before departing for the Prom.

3:30 pm Red Carpet Arrival (Front Entrance)

5:00 pm Load buses

5:15 pm Buses depart for Prom

6:45 pm Arrival at Swan-e-set

7:00 pm Prom Begins (Dinner & Dance)

*PLEASE NOTE: This is an event that is free of drugs and alcohol. Students who come to this event under the influence or in possession of drugs or alcohol will not be admitted or allowed to attend Prom.



Prom Guest Applications

Hansen student sponsors can pick up Prom Guest forms will be available in the office – starting May 3, 2027 - and must submit the completed Prom Guest Application to admin prior to the deadline – May 17, 2027. After turning in the form and upon approval, the Hansen student will receive the approved guest pass to allow them to purchase a guest ticket.

Grad Prom Guest Criteria

Grad Prom is a special event intended to celebrate our graduating students. Students wishing to bring a guest who is not a member of the graduating class must follow the school's guest application process.

The following criteria apply to all Grad Prom guest requests:

- **All guests must be approved by school administration.** Submission of a guest application does not guarantee approval.
- **Guest applications will be considered in the order in which completed applications are received.** Approval may also be subject to venue capacity and other event considerations.
- For Guests currently attending an Abbotsford School, submit your Prom Guest Application to office who will contact district 34 vice-principals to confirm information.
- For Out of District Guests Still Attending a High School, a form must be completed by the guest, signed by their principal/vice principal and submitted to RHSS administration.
- **Guests must receive approval before a prom ticket is purchased.** Tickets purchased for an unapproved guest will not result in guest approval.
- **Guest applications will only be accepted for students who are currently in Grade 11 or Grade 12 and who are 18 years of age or younger.**
- Students are responsible for ensuring that their guest understands and follows all school expectations and event guidelines.

These criteria are intended to support a safe, respectful, and appropriately supervised Grad Prom while ensuring that graduating students are able to celebrate this important milestone with their school community. All guest approvals are per administration discretion, and RHSS administration reserves the right to deny guest applications. Approved guests will be notified by administration.

Deadline for Prom Guest Application May 17, 2027

Prom Dinner and Dance

Date: June 21, 2027

Time: Board busses immediately following Torchlight at 5:00pm

Tickets on Sale: until May 17, 2027 (cost is approx. \$150.00 per person)

Prom is a formal event where students get to dress up and spend a very memorable evening together. Grads will share in a beautiful buffet dinner, and then grads will dance the night away! ALL grads and guests are bussed to and from the event. There are no exceptions.

You must pay your student and grad fees before you can reserve your table. Prom table sign up happens in June 2027. Get together with friends by writing all the names of the students sitting at your table – groups of 5 or 10. If any individual at your



table hasn't paid their school fees, their name will not be added to your table until they have paid their fees. Please check the list of all students owing fees posted outside the office in June 2027.

Congratulations Hansen Grads 2027

