

Hello parents & guardians of graduating grade 12 students,

A reminder that our Grad Directorate is hosting a Grad Luncheon on Tuesday, June 3, 2025. Students are invited to arrive between 11:00am and 11:15am to pick up pizza compliments of the committee. We will then gather in the gymnasium for important student announcements about Grad. We will also answer student questions at that time. Please encourage your graduate(s) to attend the Grad Luncheon on this Tuesday.

You can find more detailed information regarding the day of grad below. Please feel free to share with anyone who you believe will need this information for our graduation ceremony!

- **Date:** Thursday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025
- **Venue:** VisitLethbridge.com Arena, 2510 Scenic Drive South, Lethbridge, Alberta
- **Parking:** Parking at the VisitLethbridge.com Arena on the day of grad is free. If you DO pay for parking accidentally, the VisitLethbridge.com Arena cannot issue refunds. Remind yourself, your graduates, and your guests that parking is **free** for Grad on June 26<sup>th</sup>.
- **Grad Gowns & Pickup:** The cap and gowns will be arriving any day. Pick up will be on June 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> from 8:30am – 3:00pm both days. Pickup will take place in the band room. If your child cannot pickup their gowns during those 2 days, they will need to arrange pickup in the office. It is a good idea to hang your gown once you get it home to help it from being wrinkled. **All** pieces of the ceremony attire including the cap, gown, stole and tassel are yours to keep after the graduation ceremony.
- **Grad Social Media & Website:**  
Website - <https://wchs.lethsd.ab.ca/student-life/graduation>
- **Livestream:** There will be a livestream of our Grad 2025 ceremonies and the link to access this will be posted to our school website and emailed to families closer to the day of grad.
- **Grad Timelines (June 26):**
  - **CONVOCATION**
    - Students arrive at 8:30am with their cap, gown, and stole
    - Please arrive no later than 9:00am – we assemble all graduates for a group photo before we begin organizing ourselves for the convocation processional.

- Parents, guardians, and all other guests may enter the VisitLethbridge.com Arena to seat themselves as soon as the doors to the facility open (which will be no later than 9:30am...typically much earlier than that). Seating is first come first served.
- The Convocation Ceremony begins at 10:00am and lasts about 2 hours, although it may run a bit longer. Planning to be seated between 9:30am – 12:30am is appropriate.
- Convocation is a traditional process where students cross the stage one at a time to receive their diploma. This is a commemorative diploma that we create at the school – their official diploma is mailed to them from Alberta Education (please make sure your students current address is accurate as this is the address Alberta Education will mail diplomas to). During this process, students are acknowledged when Administrators read a prepared “one-liner” written by the students’ Advisor, and the student will meet their Advisor on stage for a “handshake photo” (students will pause for a photo with their Advisor [taken by Mountain West Studios]), after having their tassel moved. Students then exit the stage and go back to their seats.
- Guest seating: In the general seating provided at VisitLethbridge.com Arena. There are accessible seating spaces available for guests using mobility aids and wheelchairs. VisitLethbridge.com Arena can offer one chair to a support person sitting in an accessible seating zone; all other guests in the group are asked to sit in the rows immediately next to the zone if they want to be close to their loved one.
- Graduate and staff seating: This will be on the floor (ice level) at the VisitLethbridge.com Arena.
- Cap Toss: Should students take their tassel off their caps before they toss them (if they choose to toss their cap). If your Grad would like to keep your specific cap (i.e. you decorated or beaded your cap and you want to keep it), you should not toss it high or far...or at all! If you want to keep your tassel, take it off before the cap toss.
- Decorating my cap: Grads are welcome to decorate their cap if they would like to prior to this day. Please make sure whatever embellishment you choose is celebratory and appropriate for the ceremony. We look forward to seeing it!
- What do students wear underneath their graduation gown?  
We suggest that students are comfortable because they will be hot in the gown. Consider wearing something cool and comfortable. Some students dress formally underneath their grad gown, and some students dress casually. We will see your footwear, and the bottom 1/3 of your legs, so keep this in mind when you choose what to wear that morning.

- **EVENING CEREMONY**

- Students will need to arrive between **5:30pm – 5:45pm** (please arrive no later than 5:45pm)
- Students are asked to wear whatever makes them comfortable and expresses themselves, although traditionally this is a formal event. Students typically choose to wear suits, ties, dresses, gowns, traditional clothing, or other more formal attire that matches their self-expression.
- Guests and staff will sit in the general seating area (just as in the morning) for the evening program. ***Only graduates will be seated on the floor (ice level) for the evening ceremony.***
- **6:30pm – Grand Entrance.** Students will be sitting at tables when the ceremony starts. When it's time, 2-3 tables at a time will make their way behind stage. One at a time, students will have their name called and walk across the stage. Students will pause for a photo (taken by Mountain West Studios) after they exit the stage. Once their photo is done, they will make their way back to their tables.
- **7:00pm – Evening Program.** This portion of the evening includes speeches and replies, recognition, and announcements from Administration and the dances. It usually runs about 90 minutes.

- **Grad Invitations for Family and Friends:**

At this time, we do not have a set limit on the number of guests who can attend either the morning convocation or the evening program. The arena holds a lot of guest and we are thrilled to be able to host all graduates and their families/friends.

- **Photography:**

There will be space at the front of the rows of seats (near "the boards" at ice level) for guests to come forward to take a photo. You will be in front of other families and guests if you proceed to take a photo, so we ask that you are mindful of sightlines for all guests at our events. Please know if you are blocking the view of another guest.

Mountain West Studios will be in service at our event. Their talented team will take the following photos on June 26<sup>th</sup>:

- All Graduates group photo (in the morning before Convocation)
- The "Handshake" photo (in the morning at convocation; advisor and graduate shaking hands on the stage)
- "Fairy Light Backdrop" photo (at the evening ceremony, after students cross the stage).

These photos will be either be handed out on the day of grad or mailed out at a later date but we will communicate that closer to the day of grad. A note on the cap toss photo: We will not take a "cap toss" photo this year. The photo did not turn out well last year, so if you would like a photo of the student's tossing their caps at the end of convocation, please take this photo on your camera or phone.

- **Grad Fees:**

The 2025 Grad fee is now payable, and it has been added to School Cash Online for all Grade 12 students. If your student is not graduating, please contact our office at 403-328-4723 so that we can remove the fee. The fee for graduation this year is \$100.00, and it includes: cap and gown fee, diploma covers; rental fee at the venue, and decorations.

- **Baby Photos:**

We are featuring a very popular aspect of graduation at our 2025 ceremony – the Baby Photo Slideshow. If your graduating student has not yet submitted a baby photo for this special slideshow, please send a digital copy of the baby photo to [Jenna.Johnson@lethsd.ab.ca](mailto:Jenna.Johnson@lethsd.ab.ca) so that we can include it in our slideshow. If you're not sure if you have submitted a baby/toddler photo, please contact Jenna so that we can double check for you! If you do not send a photo there will be a placeholder in place of this photo for your grad on the slideshow.

- **Concession:**

The concession at VisitLethbridge.com Arena will be open for light snacks and beverages during Grad. You are also welcomed to bring in your own outside beverage or water bottle if that is more convenient for you and your guests.

- **Student Seating for Evening Ceremony**

Students will arrive between 5:30 – 5:45pm to find a table to sit at. Students may choose who they would like to sit with. **PLEASE NOTE:** each table has 8 chairs. Chairs cannot be added or taken away. ALL grads will have a table to sit at and our Churchill staff will be there to ensure everyone has a place to sit.

- **How many graduates do we have?**

This year, we have about 220 grads!

- **My student has told me their Advisor cannot make it to graduation. Who will give my student their diploma?**

Tracy Wong, Principal, will stand in for any advisors who are unable make it on the day of graduation. This is a regular working day for staff, but some of our staff are

called away for things like Diploma exam marking in Edmonton during this time.

- **Further Questions or Concerns?**

If you have any further questions or concerns related to Grad 2025, please give us a call at the WCHS Office: 403-328-4723. You can email Aaron Becking ([aaron.becking@lethsd.ab.ca](mailto:aaron.becking@lethsd.ab.ca)) or Jenna Johnson in the front office ([jenna.johnson@lethsd.ab.ca](mailto:jenna.johnson@lethsd.ab.ca)) with any follow ups you might need. Thank you!