



Waterdown Secondary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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CLASS OF 2017 GRADUATION CEREMONY

The following is provided to potential graduating students and their families. This provides vital information on an important transition in our students' lives. Please take the time to review this information and keep for reference. Please contact the school with any questions. Please note this letter pertains only to the graduation ceremony and a separate process, fee, etc. pertaining to the Prom will be shared with the class accordingly.

Graduation Ceremony

Date: Thursday, June 29, 2017

Time: **Graduating students:** Arrive promptly at FirstOntario Concert Hall (formerly Hamilton Place) by **1:30 p.m.** and enter the building through the “**Studio**” doors off of Summers Lane.

Parents, family and guests: **1:30 p.m.** - doors to the lobby area open

2:00 p.m. - doors to seating area open

2:30 p.m. - ceremony begins

Location: FirstOntario Concert Hall – formerly Hamilton Place (1 Summers Lane, Hamilton, ON)

Eligibility

Participation in the graduation ceremony is contingent on students having met the requirements to earn either a high school diploma or certificate. Students must make every effort to meet requirements in the required timelines in order for the school to prepare for the program, ordering of gowns, seating etc.

Tickets

Please have your son/daughter indicate the number of tickets you require when they complete their grad survey. The grad survey can be found under the quick links on our school website. Seating for family and guests is general admission and on a first come, first serve basis once the doors are open (doors will be open 30 minutes prior to the ceremony start). The tickets will direct you to one of three sections: the orchestra section, first balcony or second balcony (indicated on the ticket with a sticker). Once you have gained admission to your section you are free to sit in any row but please move as far as possible to the middle of the row leaving no empty seats between you and others already seated. Students, who have paid their grad fee (\$75) and completed the grad survey by the **Friday, May 26th** deadline, will receive their tickets at the Grad Breakfast (**Friday, June 2nd**). After these timelines, students can come to Student Services to complete these tasks.

Community Involvement Hours

The 40 hours of volunteer service must be completed and handed in by **June 1st**. Failure to meet this deadline may affect whether the student's name will appear in the graduation program if they are submitted after this date.

Graduation Gowns

Graduating students are to pick-up their cap and gown in Student Services on **Tuesday, June 27th between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.** Students are responsible for bringing their cap and gown to the graduation ceremony. There **will not** be any extra gowns available at the ceremony. Gowns must be returned promptly following the end of the ceremony.

Turn Page



Photos

It is advised that graduation photos with cap/gown are taken prior to the ceremony. Given the large size of the graduating class there is limited space for photographs and movement in the lobby at FirstOntario Concert Hall. There will be a professional photographer who will take a picture of each graduating student as they receive their diploma. The picture(s) will be given to students at the end of graduation when they return their gown.

Graduation Portfolios

A graduation portfolio will be available for pick up at WDHS from **July 10 through to July 21** between the hours of **8:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.** The portfolio contains a class composite photograph (for those who opted for formal graduation pictures through Edge Imaging), a graduation diploma/certificate, any award certificates, the final report card and transcript.

Graduation Portrait Retakes

Edge Imaging's studio in Burlington will be open over the March Break for those students who missed the original photo days or would like retakes. Graduates can book their time slot by calling 1-888-416-3343 (EDGE) or by emailing customercare@edgeimaging.ca.

Graduation Fee

A **\$75.00** grad fee will be charged to each student. This fee helps defray the following cost:

- Grad Breakfast in June
- Graduation gown rental
- Graduation Cap – the cap is a keepsake for the student
- Hall Rental
- Photograph – taken as diploma is presented
- Awards
- Keepsake program

Payments may be made through via School Cash Online - <https://hwdsb.schoolcashonline.com/>

Please ensure payment is made no later than **Friday, May 26th**.

Financial Assistance

Finance should never be a barrier for students to participate in school events. Should families require financial assistance to support any graduation activity, please contact Greg Gregoriou in Student Services.

Phone: **905-689-6692, Ext. 3016**

E-mail: ggregori@hwdsb.on.ca

Graduation Awards

Awards are determined by a committee comprised of teachers and administration. Decisions made by the committee are final. Students are encouraged to complete the last two sections of the online grad survey to ensure the committee has a full understanding of each student's activities while at WDHS.

Valedictorian

Valedictorian nomination forms are available in Student Services and are due back on or before **Thursday, May 18th**. Voting will take place at the Grad Breakfast (see below). The criteria for the applicant/nominee are listed on the form.

Grad Breakfast

Grad Breakfast will take place in the school cafeteria at **7:30 a.m. on Friday, June 2nd**. Graduating students are invited to attend this WDHS tradition and vote for their valedictorian. Tickets for graduation will also be distributed at this time, for students who have completed the grad survey and paid the fee.

We look forward to seeing you at the ceremony.

Mr. Derek Zuccolo
Head of Student Services

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E-mail: dzuccolo@hwdsb.on.ca