



## Class of 2023 Valedictorian Self-Nomination Process

As a graduating student with the highest levels of academic, leadership, school and community contributions, and inspirational ability, a Valedictorian represents and speaks on behalf of the graduating class. The Ancaster Class of 2023 will choose a Valedictorian who will address the Ancaster Community (students, staff, families) on June 5<sup>th</sup> 2023 during the Commencement Ceremony. It is a high honour to be selected as a Valedictorian, and only serious and committed nominations are accepted.

Graduating students may self-nominate and put their names forward for consideration by a staff committee and classmates. The process is described below and must be followed precisely.

### Self-Nomination Requirements and Process:

1. Nominees must self-identify as someone who has been empowered to **“learn and grow to their full potential in a diverse world”** during their time at Ancaster High School. Nominees must speak with clarity and specificity about how they meet this high expectation.
2. Nominees’ cumulative average in high school, **including semester two mid-semester grades** must meet the provincial standard (Level 3), minimally. Nominees usually have exceptional results on their transcripts.
3. Nominees must have consistently upheld and modelled exceptional behaviour and conduct throughout secondary school. Please see page 8 of our school handbook for the [Student Code of Behaviour](#).
4. Nomination packages must be complete and submitted to Mr. Nicholson via e-mail ([snichols@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:snichols@hwdsb.on.ca)) by **April 17, 2023 at 3 p.m.** The package must originate from the nominee’s HWDSB email address, and must include a .pdf attachment with a brief overview (something that could be read aloud in one minute) of what the nominee has to offer as a potential Valedictorian. Name this attachment, **“My Pitch.”** Each package must also include the completed **Teacher Reference Form** in .pdf too.
5. A Valedictorian Selection Committee will review nominee submissions and check that they meet the self-nomination requirements. Short listing may occur. School-approved applicants will be notified by **April 21 at 3 p.m.**
6. Grade 12’s will be invited to an assembly in the auditorium on **May 1 at 11:00 a.m.**
  - a. Nominees will read a 4-minute excerpt of their speech and then a 1-minute pitch of *“Why I should be the Class of 2023’s Valedictorian”*. **Rules: Voice only, no music, no sound effects, no props, no gimmicks, etc. Any jokes or stories or poking fun of a friend or teacher must be cleared in advance with the people involved. We’ll check!**
  - b. Nominees will be strictly held to a maximum of five minutes on the microphone and will speak in alphabetical order by last name. Any student speaking off-script will be disqualified.
  - c. Only Grade 12’s may attend the speeches, and they must remain for the duration of all speeches.
  - d. Voting must be done in-person and inside the auditorium. Only Grade 12’s can vote, and only one vote per student. ***This means no voting on behalf of a friend, no remote voting, and no voting after the last student departs the auditorium.***
7. Nominees may not in any way, directly or indirectly, online or in person, campaign or invite or influence others to vote for one candidate or another. This includes all social media platforms (ex: “vote for me” posts, etc).
8. Each nominee will be notified of the voting results on May 1<sup>st</sup> by 3:00 p.m. (no totals will be shared) and the Class of 2023 Valedictorian will be announced on the same day at 5:00 p.m. via mass e-mail.
9. The elected Valedictorian must work with an Ancaster High teacher/coach of their choice to revise, edit and finalize their speech for approval by June 2<sup>nd</sup> (three days before commencement). The valedictory speech may not be altered without prior approval from the teacher/coach. Failure to respectfully follow this rule will result in consequences.

## Teacher References for Class of 2023 Valedictorian

Dear Teachers,

Please complete one of the sections below pertaining to your relationship with the candidate. Students are required to obtain two unique references from current Ancaster High staff.

### Teacher #1 (Extra-curricular Reference):

- School involvement (i.e. sports, clubs, activities, etc.)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments:

### Teacher #2 (Character Reference):

- Demonstrates good character (i.e. integrity, honesty, acceptance, caring, citizenship, respect, etc.)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: