



# Class of 2024 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 2024 will choose a Valedictorian who will address the Ancaster Community (students, staff, families) on **June 27<sup>th</sup> 2024** 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”** in Grades 9, 10, and 11 and has in Grade 12 been empowered to **“Be You. Be Excellent”**. Nominees must speak with clarity and specificity about how they meet these high expectations.
2. Nominees must be on track to graduate. This means that nominees **have at least 26 credits** as of February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 and will have all courses appearing on the mid-semester report card with a passing grade.
3. Nominees must have consistently upheld and modelled exceptional behaviour and conduct throughout secondary school.
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 19, 2024 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 include the completed **Teacher Reference Form** 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 24 at 3 p.m.**
6. Grade 12’s will be invited to an assembly in the auditorium on **May 3 at 10:15 a.m.** with their class.
  - 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 2024’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 3<sup>rd</sup> by 1 p.m. (no totals will be shared) and the Class of 2024 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 24<sup>th</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 2024 Valedictorian

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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: