



NORA FRANCES HENDERSON SECONDARY SCHOOL

COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES 2025

IMPORTANT DATES

COMMENCEMENT BREAKFAST- May 28, 2025 (Period1)

Nora Frances Henderson Secondary School Cafeteria

COMMENCEMENT/GRADUATION CEREMONY-JUNE 24, 2025

Mohawk College, McIntyre Performing Arts Centre

135 Fennell Avenue East

4:00 p.m.

****ALL GUESTS AND GRADUATES ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE TICKETS FOR ENTRY. Tickets will be distributed with cap and gown package in June .***

GRADE 12 PROM – MAY 29, 2025

Carmen's Banquet Hall

1520 Stone Church Rd E, Hamilton, ON L8W 3P9

Doors open – 5:30 p.m. Arrival/Reception, Dinner-6:15 p.m., Dance ends-10:30 p.m.

COMMENCEMENT TIMELINE

OCTOBER 2024

- **October 10, 2024 – Grade 12 Pathways & Commencement Information Assembly in Cafeteria at 10:15 a.m.**

NOVEMBER 2024

- **November 1, 2024 - March 19, 2025 - Commencement Fee of \$70 paid and gowns ordered through School Cash Online**

DECEMBER 2024

- **December 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 2024– Graduation Photos:** All Grade 12 students must have their Graduation photo taken for the composite photo. There is no obligation to purchase Grad photos. Grade 12's must book an appointment to have their Grad photo taken.
- **BOOK YOUR SESSION TODAY!**
[Grad Photo booking LINK](#)
SCHOOL CODE: NHH

FEBRUARY 2025

- **February 12th - Commencement 2025 Information Assembly Period 2 - 10:15 am** in Cafeteria
- **February 20, 21, 22 – Graduation Photos:** All Grade 12 students must have their Graduation photo taken for the composite photo. There is no obligation to purchase Grad photos. Grade 12's must book an appointment to have their Grad photo taken.
- **BOOK YOUR SESSION TODAY!**
- [Grad Photo booking LINK](#)
- **SCHOOL CODE: NHH**

MARCH 2025

- **March 18th - Commencement 2025 Information Assembly Period 2 - 10:15 am** in Cafeteria.
- **March 24th - Graduation Photos:** All Grade 12 students must have their Graduation photo taken for the composite photo. There is no obligation to purchase Grad photos. Grade 12's must book an appointment to have their Grad photo taken.
- **BOOK YOUR SESSION TODAY!**
- [Grad Photo booking LINK](#)
- **SCHOOL CODE: NHH**
- **March 19th** – Last day to pay \$70 Commencement fee through School Cash Online
- **March 25th** – Information meeting for those interested in Henderson's 2025 Valedictorian Selection Process during Period 3 Lunch in room 2033
- **March 28th** – Deadline to email your intent to put your name forward for Valedictorian to Ms. Reynolds (ereynold@hwdsb.on.ca)

APRIL 2025

- **April 24th - Present speech preview and submit Valedictorian Nomination Form** to panel of teachers (including Ms. Reynolds) during Period 3 Lunch. Top three candidates will be notified by email in the following days.
- **April 30th - Community Involvement hours** must be completed and submitted to Mrs. Anderson in the Guidance Office

MAY 2025

- **May 11th** – Last day to purchase **Prom tickets**
- **May 18th - MacMillan's** order arrives
- **May 28th – Commencement Breakfast** at Nora Frances Henderson Secondary School during Period 1 in the cafeteria. **Valedictorian speech previews** presented followed by vote by grade 12s to decide their 2024 Valedictorian. Valedictorian announced by end of the day.

JUNE 2025

- **JUNE 10-25 – Gown Pickup** in the Guidance Office, Room 1016
- **JUNE 24 – Commencement Ceremony** - @ 4:00 PM at Mohawk College-McIntyre Performing Arts Centre

JULY 2025

- Starting JULY 21, 2025, and onward – Diploma/Transcripts/Awards available for pick up in the Main Office between 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Nora Frances Henderson Secondary school will follow a Commencement model of graduation. All students in the year 4 and 5 cohorts will have their achievements celebrated. Not all students will have completed all components of OSSD but are still welcome to participate in the commencement ceremony although some may not officially be graduates. This will allow all students to celebrate their achievement with their cohort peers. Students Graduating with an Ontario Secondary School Diploma are considered potential graduates. Please see further details below. Should you have any questions or concerns, please see your Guidance counsellor.

1. POTENTIAL GRADUATES

Please check the status of your graduation if you are not sure. Book an appointment with your guidance counsellor to review to ensure that all requirements have been met.

To qualify for an Ontario Secondary School Diploma for June 2024, you must have earned 30 credits (including all compulsory and elective credits), completed 40 hours of Community Involvement, and have met the Literacy Requirement and a minimum of two online learning credits.

Note: The deadline to submit Community Involvement hours is April 30, 2025

2. VALEDICTORIAN

This year's valedictorian will be a graduating student who has:

- ~ An admirable academic record and is recognized as a leader in the school
- ~ A positive attitude and is involved in various aspects of school life
- ~ The respect of both peers and faculty
- ~ The confidence to write and deliver a speech to a large audience

The Valedictorian Nomination Form will ask candidates to answer the following question as part of the selection process: Why are you qualified to be Valedictorian of the 2024-2025 graduating class? Why do you want to be Valedictorian? The Nomination Form will require three teacher endorsements as well.

If you would like to put your name forward for consideration, please **listen to announcements and follow the process outlined below, paying close attention to deadlines:**

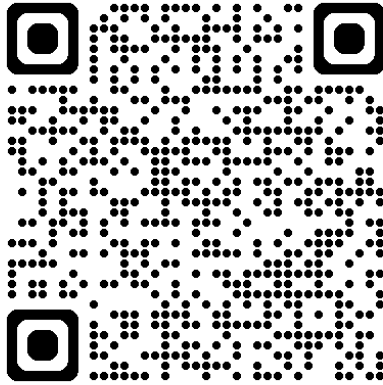
1. Tuesday, March 25th – Attend the valedictorian information meeting in room 2033 during P3 Lunch.
2. Friday, March 28th – Deadline to email your intent to put your name forward for Valedictorian to Ms. Reynolds (ereynold@hwdsb.on.ca).
3. Prepare a 1-minute valedictorian speech preview and complete Valedictorian Nomination Form.
4. Thursday, April 24th – Present speech preview and submit Valedictorian Nomination Form to panel of teachers (including Ms. Reynolds) during P3 Lunch. The top three candidates will be notified by email in the following days.
5. Wednesday, May 28th – Top three candidates will present speech previews at the Commencement Breakfast during P1 (where the graduating class will vote to decide their 2024 Valedictorian!).
6. Wednesday, May 28th – Successful candidate will be announced by the end of the school day.

3. COMMENCEMENT FEE and CEREMONY TICKETS

Each grade 12 student participating in the Commencement Ceremony on June 24th and who has paid the commencement fee of \$70, will receive 2 guest tickets for the ceremony at Mohawk College. All guests require a ticket for entry to the McIntyre Theatre (Mohawk College) to attend the ceremony.

If a student would like extra tickets, they will make a request on a waitlist, and this will be evaluated. If there are extra tickets, they will be distributed equally to all students who have added their name to the list. The grad package with cap/gown/tassel, tickets and information sheet will be available for pick up in June in the Guidance Office. Students must listen for announcements for these dates.

***School Cash Online for fees will be open until
May 6, 2025***



Your fee of \$70 includes the following:

- Rental and Ceremony of McIntyre Theatre at Mohawk College
- Sounds and Light crew
- Cap, Gown and Tassel (for students to keep)
- Commencement Breakfast
- Parking included
- 2 guest tickets for entry into Mohawk Theatre (Graduate does not require a ticket)

4. GRADE 12 PROM DINNER AND DANCE FEE

- **Available for purchase on SCHOOL CASH ONLINE ONLY!**

Time: 5:30 pm to 10:30 pm

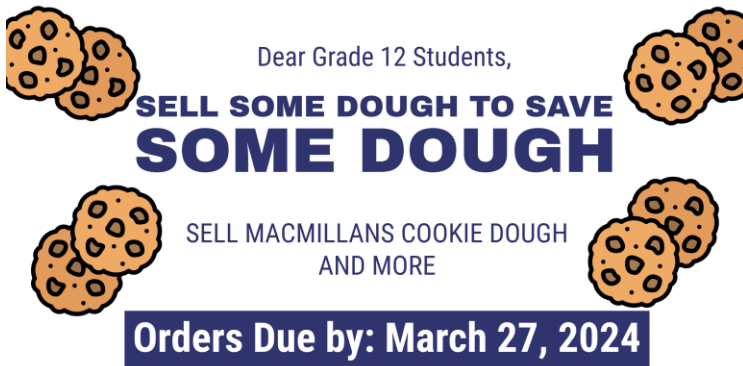
Cost: \$65 (approximately)



5. CLASS OF 2025 SPIRIT WEAR Available for purchase through the spiritwear365.ca website. Website is expected to be available by Oct. 11, 2024.



6. MACMILLAN'S FUNDRAISER



How to Sell: Please scan the QR code and start selling online to family, friends, neighbours, etc



You get 30% of all sales made that can go toward your Prom Ticket, your Commencement fees, or your trip to Ottawa



Delivery Date: April 17th, 2024

That means you have to be available to take home your goods on that day
And get them to everyone who purchased from you
Need Help? See Mrs. Graves

