

## ROBERT THIRSK HIGH SCHOOL



### **Class of 2026: Graduation Information & Upcoming To Dos**

**Graduation Fees:** You may have noticed that two graduation fees are already added to your CBE Powerschool account. The first fee of \$52.50 pays for students' certificate, rental of the venue, audio visual, and security costs. The second fee is also a mandatory \$26.25 fee for the cap, gown and tassel students keep. Students can also come into the business office to pay debit, credit or cash. If the student's fees are unpaid, please speak to the Business Manager or discuss alternate arrangements with the office. Grad fees are due April 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Banquet Costs:** The graduation banquet cost of tickets is \$115.50 +GST (sold online until April 24). All attendees need a ticket, including the graduate. If you've missed the deadline, please email Ms Barber ([sjbarber@cbe.ab.ca](mailto:sjbarber@cbe.ab.ca)) regarding the possibility of tickets. Pre-purchased tickets can be picked up outside the office at **lunch/break** Wednesday May 20, Thursday May 21 or Friday May 22.

**Ceremony Audience:** There is plenty of seating at the Jack Simpson gym; therefore, there will not be tickets or a maximum number of guests allowed.

**Accessible Seating at Ceremony:** Guests enter the Jack Simpson gym and then walk down the bleacher seating. If one or more of your guests requires accessible seating, please email Ms. Paige LaRoche by May 17th at [pclarcoche@cbe.ab.ca](mailto:pclarcoche@cbe.ab.ca).

**Valedictorian:** Congratulations to Tahia, our 2026 Valedictorian. Thank you to all those students who participated in the Speak Off. The speeches were exemplary. Also, thank you to the students and teachers who attended The Speak Off and provided feedback.

**Grad Hoodies** The first orders of hoodies has been placed and when they arrive and will be available for pick up in the office. If you want a grad hoodie, the second round of orders is due May 2!

**Graduation Photos:** All students will have a professional photo with Ms. Hambidge taken at the ceremony as they cross the stage. These photos will be handed out in Connect June 5, 2026 and can then be added to the certificate folder students receive at the ceremony.

**Student Grad Committee:** Members of the graduation committee will decide on the songs that will be played for the significant dances at the banquet with input from the full graduating class. They also organize the decorations for the evening. Pay attention to future announcements about Grad Hype Week in May. Thanks for all of these students' efforts!

**Graduation Rehearsal:** ALL GRADS MUST ATTEND a mandatory Grad Ceremony rehearsal in the gym [to rehearse processional and crossing of stage & to receive a final newsletter] in Connect **May 22, 2026**.

**Gown Pick-Up:**

Gowns, caps, and tassels will be picked up Friday May 22 during the Connect rehearsal in the main gym during Connect rehearsal. Students will keep their gown, vee stole, cap and tassel.

Special thanks to parent volunteers who are preparing the gown packages for our grade 12 students!

## ROBERT THIRSK HIGH SCHOOL



### **Class of 2026: Graduation Information & Etiquette Booklet**

Finally, after thirteen years, your graduation is close at hand. Your high school graduation festivities will be remembered for years to come. This information and etiquette booklet is intended to make these events memorable. It is designed to help you deal with any areas of uncertainty and make your graduation more enjoyable.

### **Robert Thirsk High School 2025 Graduation Ceremony**

**9:30 am - noon Wednesday May 27, 2026**

**University of Calgary, Jack Simpson Gym**

**This formal ceremony is an important part of your graduation, as you will be formally recognized by your family, friends, teachers, peers, and community.**

#### **Timeline**

8:15 - 8:30 am Arrival (important if you want time to take pictures before the ceremony)  
9:00 am Graduates Line Up—in the Oval- line up with your Connect teacher alphabetically  
9:30 am Processional begins- promptly

#### **Parking**

Parking for the event is in Lot 10 or 11 (off 32nd street; North side of campus near the Olympic Oval). Look for event parking signage; parking is a flat rate of \$10 in these lots. Payment is to be made at the pay-stations in each lot which accepts Amex, Visa, Mastercard, Debit, Apple & Google pay. Accessible parking for anyone that requires it is available in Lot 11 (\$10) or Lot 9 (\$5.00/hr to \$22.50 maximum). Accessible placard must be displayed while parking.

#### **What to Wear and What to Bring**

Graduates are all wearing black grad gowns and caps and silver and blue vee stoles and tassels. Students will pick up their gown package on Friday, May 22 in Connect Grad Rehearsal in the gym. Unclaimed gowns will be brought to the ceremony at the U of C.

The neckline of the graduate's shirt and from the calf downward will be visible with the gown on. It may be warm in the gym (avoid jackets and sweaters). Graduates should consider the heel and comfort of their shoes as they will be walking up and down stairs on either side of the stage.

Bring a toonie for the 11th annual graduating class charity collection for Freshwater Conservation Canada (<https://www.freshwaterconservationcanada.org/>) Be sure to keep your toonie with you. When you walk the stage, after your name is called, you will place it in a container before you shake the principal's hand and have your photograph taken.

All personal belongings and purses need to be left with family members as the gowns do not have pockets. Cell phones, iPods, iPhones, text messaging, cameras and such are all inappropriate.

### **Pictures**

During the ceremonies, a professional photographer will take a photo of each graduate with Ms. Hambidge. Each graduate will receive a complimentary copy of this photo to put in their certificate folder. Due to these organized opportunities for photos, we ask that the audience remain in their seats during this process and that they do not come to the front to take pictures.

### **Audience Seating**

The doors to the Jack Simpson gym will open at 8:30 am. There is plenty of seating, you may have as many guests as you would like. Guests sit in the stands. Graduates will be seated on the main floor. Graduates with RED and some BLUE Connect teachers Abrams/Huddleston, Cowley/Pierpoint/Poth/Williams, Duffy, Miller-Dorey, Reid/ Miller, Simms, Visser, Bird, Gillespie, Lakhani should sit on the right side of the stage (facing the stage, on the right). ORANGE and some BLUE Connect groups: Purewal, Reuther, Roggeveen, Blue, Drysdale, Gordanier/Zia/Johnson, Hoover, Issler, Warne, Warner are on the left side (farthest from entrance doors). Be sure your guests know the name of your Connect teacher. Perhaps send this information out to your family in advance of Graduation Day.

The ceremony is 2-ish hours long without intermission, (it may be difficult for small children.) The gym is very open, so we ask that the audience refrain from moving around as it can be distracting for others. We ask that people refrain from whistling or loud cheering during the speeches and procession. Applause, however, is appropriate. Parents are asked to show their respect and support for the graduating class *by remaining for the entire ceremony.*

An area is reserved for guests in wheelchairs and guests with limited mobility only. Please contact Ms. Paige LaRoche [pclaroche@cbe.ab.ca](mailto:pclaroche@cbe.ab.ca) by May 21st if this seating is needed.

The program consists of a procession, during which the stage party, teachers, and graduates enter the main auditorium in their gowns, while the audience stands to receive them. The program consists of messages and speeches, musical performances, plus the important "crossing the stage" where each graduate drops a toonie in the astronaut helmet for charity and receives their certificate. Please note that this certificate is ceremonial- and students receive official documents in the mail. There are still a number of classes and exams that occur after May 27th.

## **Robert Thirsk High School 2025 Graduation Banquet and Dance: Wednesday, May 27th**



### **Timeline**

5:30 pm Doors open  
6:00 pm Program Start and Dinner  
8:00 - 11:00 pm Program and Dance

### **Location**

Grey Eagle Resort and Casino  
3777 Grey Eagle Dr

Pre-purchased banquet tickets can be picked up from Mrs. Barber outside the office at lunch/break Wednesday May 20, Thursday May 21 or Friday May 22.

Your pre-purchased tickets are required for admission to the Grey Eagle Resort and Casino. Your table number will be identified on your ticket. Doors to the banquet hall open at 5:30 p.m. All grads and guests are asked to be seated by 6:00 pm as the program and dinner will begin. It is important to keep your eye on the time, as dinner will start even if you are still visiting.

### **Seating Requests:**

The last step in finalizing your student's banquet ticket(s) is to request seating. This year's table assignments will be done on a first come first serve basis. Once tickets have been paid for, have your graduate come to the office **during lunch on Monday-Thursday** and sign up for seating. Tables will seat 8 people, so please make sure that you have all the names of all people in your party with paid tickets. Tables of 10 are available upon request. If your party is smaller than 8, it is possible that you will be sitting with people outside of your party and it may be necessary to move you to balance table numbers. We will do our best to honor all seating requests, however there may be instances where it is not possible.

Seating Request begins on Monday, April 13th, at lunch . Maps of the venue are available for viewing in the office. The deadline to request seating is May 8th. After that time seating will be completed on your behalf.

**Parking:** Free parking at the Grey Eagle!

### **Security**

**All backpacks and bags will be checked with security. This is the Grey Eagle Policy. Grads and guests will not be allowed to leave and re-enter the banquet hall at the Grey Eagle.** This is a non-alcoholic, non-smoking, non-vaping, school-sponsored event. If alcohol is suspected on an individual, they will not be allowed into the function or will be asked to leave with a parent or an escort.

## Banquet Etiquette

Graduands, this may be the first time that you are the one responsible for the guests you bring. Most of your life, your parents have been responsible for you. On this occasion, you will flip roles. This event is all about you. You need to pay attention to your table etiquette, dance etiquette, wardrobe, manners, attitude and behavior. It is up to you to put those around you at ease. This is your night to shine!

## Dress Code for Grads, Guests & Teachers

Parents, guests, teachers, and graduands need to note that the attire for the banquet is formal. Shoes – make sure your shoes are comfortable as the policy at the Grey Eagle is no bare feet where food is served due to the possibility of broken glass or dishes.

















## Mingle, Talk & Visit

Please remember that graduation is a family event. We want people to come and enjoy themselves. Your parents have invested in your education and should they attend the banquet, they deserve your respect and attention on this special evening. Don't be too embarrassed to talk to them and sit with them. Remember to introduce them to other parents, friends, and teachers as they may not know anyone present except you. Make sure they feel welcome. Please remember to take advantage of opportunities to take photos with friends and family during the night.

Feel free to mingle, walk around, and visit before and after supper, but not during the toasts.

## Dinner

Dinner is a buffet shown below. Dietary restrictions (vegetarian and Gluten Free requests) will be included in the buffet. Specific anaphylactic allergies were provided on the ticket request form. Water will be served and a moment of gratitude will be said before the meal begins. Tea and coffee will follow the meal and the formal program begins at the conclusion of dinner. It is expected that everyone is seated and attentive for the toasts and replies. Soft drinks are available free of charge at the back of the hall throughout the evening.

- Assorted dinner rolls served with butter 
- Chef's garden salad with assorted dressings  
- Caesar salad with bacon bits on the side
- Penne pasta tossed in a spicy tomato sauce, arugula, bocconcini, basil pistou drizzle & parmesan cheese 
- Marinated slow-roasted Alberta beef with red wine jus on the side  
- Roasted chicken breast with a wild mushroom sauce 
- Garlic mashed potatoes  
- Chef's choice seasonal vegetables  
- Build your own cheesecake station. Assorted sauces, toasted coconut, Skor bits, Saskatoon berry compote, sprinkles, mini marshmallows seasoning berries  
- Seasonal Fruit 
- Seasonal Berry Cake  

### **Toasts**

There will be several toasts made after dinner during the formal program. Please listen respectfully to each toast and each response. At the end of each toast, *[not the response]* the speaker will say, "Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in a toast to...". Then you stand, raise your glass, repeat the toast with the speaker, take a sip of your drink and then be seated. There will be a response to each toast. *You do not toast the response.* Your respectful attention is expected. While the toasts are occurring please remain seated at your table.

### **Dance**

There will be a couple of songs played at the beginning of the evening for grads to dance with an adult who has been of special influence in their lives (perhaps a parent) and perhaps a date or friend for the second slow song. Be sure to take time to wander and visit with teachers, friends and family. This is a great opportunity to show off your outfits and hairstyles. The DJ is there until 11:00 p.m. and the dance floor is a fun place to be. Have pictures taken with friends and family.

**This high school graduation night occurs once in your lifetime – be sure to make it safe and memorable.**