



# Abbotsford Senior Secondary School

## **Grad Handbook 2025-2026**

## Message to Parents

This is an exciting year for both you and your graduate. We encourage you as parents to get involved and help out with this year's Grad activities. There are lots of places to help both upfront and behind the scenes and your insight is always welcome.

## Grad Updates

Emails: **Please make sure we have your correct email on file.** If you have not received an email from the school then we do not have it. Please contact [barbara.glenn@abbyschools.ca](mailto:barbara.glenn@abbyschools.ca) to update it.

Website: Under "Student", click the "Grad Tab" on our website:

[www.abbysenior.abbyschools.ca](http://www.abbysenior.abbyschools.ca)

Instagram: @abbotsfordsenior

MS Teams: Abby Senior Grad 2026

## Grad Parent Meetings (students are welcome)

Throughout the year, we host a couple of Grad Parent meetings to discuss grad requirements, expectations, ways parents can get involved and more. We look forward to seeing you on:

**September 11th 7:30-8PM Learning Commons (Following Meet the Teacher / Open House)**

## Scholarship Night

The Abby Senior Counsellors will host a Scholarship Information night. This is open to parents and grads looking to learn more about scholarship opportunities available to them. Details will be shared on our website and on the Grad Team Classroom when they are confirmed.

## Post-Secondary Night

Interested in different post-secondary universities, colleges, and training institutes? Why not check up on each school and their advisors in one night???? Post-Secondary Night is your chance to meet all the college and university reps from around the province and nation all in one building, all in one night. Details will be shared on our website when they are confirmed.

## Grad Expectations

We expect our grad class to be leaders in the school / community and set good examples with the choices they make. Grade 12 students who choose, in their final year, to attend school or school events having consumed drugs or alcohol may not be allowed to take part in school-based grad activities including the Grad Dinner and Dance (Prom).

## Grad Council

The Grad Council for the 2025-26 School Year is a group of individuals who will be the voice of the ASSS Grad Class of 2026. Ms. Fleming and Mr. Leeman will share information about applying to Grad Council in early September. Requirements of Grad Council members include:

- ⌘ Meeting regularly to plan and organize with ASSS Admin & Counsellors
- ⌘ Work with teacher sponsors to plan each grad event(s)
- ⌘ Communicating to grad class regarding events
- ⌘ Working with the community to coordinate events
- ⌘ Represent their peers to the school and administration

## Assemblies & Forms

Throughout the year there will be a number of grad assemblies where students will be given information towards graduation including PSI, transcript verification, post-secondary choice and Abbotsford Foundation Awards booklet and more– so listen to announcements, watch the TV screens, check the website, follow our Instagram, join the Grad Teams Classroom!!

## Grad Photos

Grad photos are separate from the regular school photos and will occur **January 19-23** in the afternoon & evening (after classes) and January 29-30 all day (LE Days). Students can sign-up for a sitting starting in early January ONLINE. Students who only want a photo to appear in the yearbook and do not want proofs etc. do not have to pay the sitting fee. **All grads must have their photo taken by the Vibrant Photos for inclusion in the yearbook, grad composite and grad convocation Powerpoint.** Retakes will be available **(February 12)** for those students who missed the original session or who received photos that they are not satisfied with.

## Fees – all fees to be paid online

<https://abbotsford.schoolcashionline.com/>

The grad fee is \$60 and must be paid before you pick up your gown which covers the cost of the ceremonies, cap & gown, two tickets to Convocation, grad BBQ, grad folder (with personal photo & school leaving certificate). All other grad activities are optional and must be paid using our online system. Please sign up to use SchoolCashOnline (link is above).

## Grad Financial Aid

While there are no hard and fast rules for asking for financial aid, the school will consider all requests with the following guidelines: income assistance, temporary hardship, loss of employment, or use of other programs including school meals etc. Requests should be made to a member of the admin team. We realize the grad year is expensive, and if you need to

make grad payments in installments, please contact our Finance Clerk, [Kal.Sarowa@abbyschools.ca](mailto:Kal.Sarowa@abbyschools.ca) , or a member of the admin team.

### **Optional Grad Activities/ Cost (all costs subject to change)**

Grad Cruise	\$100.00
Dry Grad	\$50.00
Prom	\$130.00

### **Grad Clothing**

Grad clothing will be made available for purchase in September.

### **Grad Cruise**

Come on board as we cruise around the Vancouver Harbor taking in the sights of the Fraser Inlet / False Creek, North Shore and more on Spirit Cruises. Ticket price includes bus ride to/from, boat rental, dinner, dessert, unlimited beverages, dancing, and sight-seeing. Enjoy your first Grad activity together as a class. Only 200 tickets are available to be purchased on a first-come, first-served basis.

**September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Bus departs ASSS at 4:30 PM. Cruise will occur from 6:30-9:30, and bus will return at approximately 10:45PM.**

### **Dry Grad**

This is a parent-run event. There are plenty of fun things to do including casino games, entertainment, prizes, and more with unlimited food and beverages and a few surprises. Grads should bring comfortable clothes. Students are NOT required to bring any money or pay for anything during the evening. Bags will be searched upon arrival at the school. There are no in/ out privileges. Students who need to leave early must inform an administrator **before** and have their parent contact the administrator. Tickets are available online.

Date & Time: **April 24** Cost: \$50

### **Grad BBQ and yearbook signing**

Date: The week of June 17 Cost: Free

### **Grad Convocation**

#### **The Ceremony**

If you have completed the requirements necessary to graduate, you will be participating in the Grad Ceremony. Students may participate in the graduation ceremonies only if they are taking a course of studies that satisfies the provincial graduation requirements by May 14<sup>th</sup>. Students enrolled in courses outside of Abby Senior that are required for graduation must be 80% complete to be eligible to take part in the ceremony. If you are not sure if you have completed the requirements, please see your counselor. In addition, all students meeting the required number of course credits to graduate students must be in good standing in their

current courses. This includes the completion of grad transition and work experience booklets. Grad fee of \$60-- please pay online.

Date/ Time: The June 22 11:30am

### **Grad Valedictorian/ Grad Speaker**

The Valedictorian and Grad Speaker are members of the graduating class who speaks on behalf of all graduates at the Grad Ceremonies. This honour is usually bestowed on an outstanding student of the graduating class. The Valedictorian is chosen by a staff committee and represents all qualities that we value at ASSS: Character, Academic Achievement, Extracurricular Involvement and Community Service. In addition, students may nominate themselves or one of their Grad classmates for Grad Speaker. All nominations must have a staff reference. A staff committee will review all nominations to ensure candidates for Grad Speaker meet the requirements (B or higher GPA, good conduct, good citizenship, has made significant contributions to the school, has staff reference(s)). These TWO individuals will be the Grad Valedictorian and Grad Speaker and will address their Grad Class at Convocation.

### **Grad Gowns**

Students will receive a gown, stole, cap and **Grad 2026** tassel. The Grad Gown / Stole/ Cap/ Tassel is **yours to keep** – enjoy your souvenir. Cap & Gown Distribution will occur June 17<sup>th</sup> as part of the Grad BBQ. All fees must be paid to pick up your Cap & Gown.

### **Convocation Tickets**

Two tickets to Convocation are included in the Graduation Fee, however, additional tickets are \$10.00 and can be purchased by cash only in the office. You can only pick up your tickets if you have paid your \$60 Grad Fee and have no outstanding school fees.

Your tickets will be handed out when you pick up your Cap & Gown. There will be many tickets available.

### **Grad Stage Crossing Quotes**

Your grad stage crossing quote is read as you cross the stage during grad ceremonies. **This is different from your yearbook quote**. As grad ceremonies are a formal occasion for your parents in celebration of your achievements, you may thank your parents, acknowledge support, include a meaningful quote etc.

**The final day to submit is Feb 6th**

Your stage crossing quote is written by you and will be read out loud (by a staff member) as you cross the stage during Grad Ceremonies. It is your chance to give a short statement to your parents, teachers and fellow grads regarding you, your education or your future.

### Topics you might include are:

- Plans after you leave Abby
- What you enjoyed most about Abby
- A fond memory, a quote, a favourite saying
- Long term goals

For example: Serge would like to thank all of his coaches, teachers and fellow students who made Abby a fun place to be! Rugby rocked and Drama rolled. Serge plans to attend UFV next year.

### Rules:

- Write your introduction in third person and do not use “I”
- No longer than three sentences of approximately 30 words or less
- If you do not submit an introduction – only your name will be announced as you cross the stage.

### Grand March

Parents will delight in this activity as we ask parents to assemble in the gym, sit in the bleachers and take pictures of the entire grad class as they enter the historic Pit Gym then march to their selection of songs and show off their tuxedos and dresses.

Details: Thursday, June 11th 3:30-4:30PM

### Prom Dinner & Dance

Prom is a formal event where students get to dress up and spend a very memorable night together. Grads will share a beautiful buffet dinner. There will be a few speeches, awards, and the grads will dance the night away. Abby will be going out of district this year to a fabulous setting at **Newlands Golf Course**. All grads and their dates **MUST** travel by bus (supplied by the school) to the venue as per district policy. We must confirm numbers as of **Friday, May 29<sup>th</sup>**. Prom fees must be paid by **this date**. If you would like to bring a date please see below.

Date: Thursday, June 11th Newlands Golf Course (Langley)

### What is a Prom DATE ticket?

If your prom date is not attending another high school, or is a grad from Abby Senior within one year, they may be required to provide a Criminal Record Search. All guest passes must be handed in to Mr. Schroeder and paid in cash \$150.00 with an additional \$200 refundable deposit (paid in cash at the time of guest ticket purchase). While we do our best to accommodate all guest requests, we are confined by space, and guests will be accommodated

on a first come, first serve basis. A Criminal Record Search can be completed from the Abbotsford Police Department at the guests' own expense. The age limit for guests is: no younger than grade 11, no older than Grad 2025.