

Sardis Secondary School Grad Reference Guide 2024-25



Message to Parents

We know you're proud and excited for this BIG year! We strongly encourage you, as parents, to get involved and assist with Graduation Activities. There are plenty of opportunities to help, and your input is always appreciated. Stay tuned for details about a virtual Graduation Parent Information Evening, and be sure to check the school website, www.sss.sd33.bc.ca, for updates.

Grad Information Meetings

Attend Grad Information Meetings for important updates and to share your input. Grads will receive information and input requests (such as surveys and grad forms) through their school district email, giving them the opportunity to contribute to decisions like the Prom theme and select a class Valedictorian.

Grade 12 Events – Sponsor Staff

If you have questions about a grad event, please contact the sponsor by email or if you are interested in helping with any event, please apply through <https://sss.sd33.bc.ca/form/grad-parent-volunteer-form>

Awards, Scholarship and Bursaries	lori_christensen@sd33.bc.ca
Career Life Connections Coordinator	lynette_vanwinkle@sd33.bc.ca
Commencement Ceremonies	noelle_piegsa@sd33.bc.ca and kris_werner@sd33.bc.ca
Community Dry Grad	gordonbennett@telus.net
Grad Auction	carla_walsh@sd33.bc.ca
Grad Banquet and Dance	jenna_clayton@sd33.bc.ca
Yearbook Editor	jeff_grenier@sd33.bc.ca

Provincial Assessments and Graduation Status

- To graduate, students must complete a minimum of 80 credits in grades 10, 11 or 12 courses; some courses are required, and some are electives (see chart). In addition, **every student graduating must complete Provincial Assessments: Numeracy 10, Literacy 10 and Literacy 12.** Most students did the first 2 in grade 10 or 11, and students will write the Literacy 12 Assessment this year and any other assessments they missed.
- The four opportunities to write or re-write these assessments are in November, January, April and June. **You cannot graduate without these required assessments.** See your Counsellor or Vice Principal to register if you missed a grade 10 assessment.
- If you have questions about your graduation status, please see your counsellor.

French Immersion

Students in the French Immersion program must also write the Fra12 exam in June. You may contact lonnie_hawkenson@sd33.bc.ca for more information.

Graduation Requirements - What You Need to Graduate

Subject Area	Minimum Credits
Planning 10 or CLE 10	4
a Language Arts 10	4
a Language Arts 11	4
a Language Arts 12	4
a Mathematics 10	4
a Mathematics 11 or 12	4
a Fine Arts and/or Applied Skills 10, 11 or 12	4
Social Studies 10	4
a Social Studies 11 or Political Studies 12 or BCFP 12 or Hi 12 or Phil 12 or Law 12 or Geog 12 or Social Justice 12	4
Science 10	4
a Science 11 or 12	4
Physical Education 10	4
	48 credits
ELECTIVE COURSES	
Students must earn at least 28 elective credits (12 credits at the grade 12 level in addition to Language Arts 12)	Minimum Credits
Additional Grade 10-12 credits	28
Career Life Connections 12 (CLC) Students must earn 4 credits for Career Life Connections and cannot graduate without it	4
OVERALL TOTAL	80
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 16 must be at the Grade 12 level, including a Grade 12 Language Arts course. Others may be required, or elective courses may be required for Post Secondary Institutions (PSIs). ▪ 4 credits must be an Indigenous-focused course. ▪ Required to write the Numeracy 10, Literacy 10 and Literacy 12 Assessments. 	

Career Life Connections 12 (CLC) 4 credits

All students must complete CLC 12 to graduate.

- A final mark will be given for CLC and will appear on your report card and transcript.
- Students will complete several assignments demonstrating their Self-Awareness, Ability to work with others, Collaboration and Communication, Career Knowledge, and Career Awareness.
- They will be given a rubric for how their mark (%) will be earned, and they will complete a meeting with the CLC Teacher as the final activity for CLC.
- **By the end of Term 3**, students who have not completed CLC 12 will be removed from the graduation list and unable to attend graduation activities until they have met the CLC requirements.

BC Post-Secondary Institution (PSI) Information Nights

- Check out <https://www.postsecondarybc.ca/events/> for schools and programs of interest to you! PSI Information Fairs are a great way to learn about various post-secondary institutions.
- Virtual Information about specific schools and programs is available from September through May. Browse the events on the website to see what interests you, and then add them to your calendar to join on those dates. This is a great opportunity to learn about institutions and programs online.
- Check out the virtual fairs to discover what is available across the province for post-secondary education! Follow **sss_careers** for important dates or e-mail sss-careers@sd33.bc.ca for information.
- The Post-Secondary Information Night at SSS in October helps parents support their children's career and education choices. Representatives from BC institutions will offer presentations and host information tables.

Scholarship and Bursary Applications/ Post-Secondary

Unlock Your Future—The Key to Scholarships is an online information session about accessing bursaries and scholarships. It provides parents and students with information about applying for money to assist with post-secondary costs. In September, Brittany Palmer will give a virtual presentation for all interested parents and students.

Bursary and scholarship information will be available in late fall. Students are encouraged to apply for as many as possible, keeping track of due dates. Start by gathering 2-3 reference letters. All awards will be presented at the Awards, Bursaries, and Scholarships Evening. See Mrs. Christenson for questions or support.

Post-Secondary Application and PSI Choices Form

- Once the final marks are complete in June, the Ministry of Education will send your transcripts (up to 25) for free to a post-secondary institution (PSI) of your choice.
- To direct the sending of your transcripts, complete a form online in September to www.studenttranscripts.gov.bc.ca and choose up to 25 institutions you want to attend.
- Check the application dates for the programs and institutions you're interested in, as they may vary, and apply as soon as possible. After applying to PSIs, release your transcripts online to any universities you may want to attend at www.studenttranscripts.gov.bc.ca.

SEE OUR GRAD NEWSLETTER FOR MORE DETAILS about our Graduation Events –

<https://sss.sd33.bc.ca/grad-reference-guide-and-newsletter>

At grad events, the school administration ensures all guests act appropriately, respect others, and follow staff directions. All formal grad functions require the use of school-arranged transportation. If you're not eligible to graduate by the end of Term 3, you cannot participate in Commencement, Grad Prom, or Dry Grad.

Note: All school rules apply. These events are drug- and alcohol-free. Students suspected of use or possession will be denied entry. Those found under the influence must leave—no refunds.

Grad Auction

The Grad Auction in December is an evening of great food and items that bring the Sardis community together to raise funds for grads and the Grad Legacy Fund. Encourage friends, family, and community members to attend. Tickets for the dinner are reasonably priced!

Grade 12 students are asked to contribute business and community donations (products or gift certificates) before the event. 50% of the auctioned donation's value goes directly into the student's grad account. The remaining funds support graduation event costs and student scholarships through the Grad Legacy Fund.

Grad Cruise

The Grad Cruise in April takes guests from near the Vancouver Convention Centre around Stanley Park to False Creek. The boat has several decks, a DJ, and a dance floor. A meal, dessert, and all-you-can-drink soda are included.

Grad Banquet and Dance (Prom)

Prom is a formal and unforgettable event at the Clarion Banquet Centre in Abbotsford. Enjoy a gourmet buffet, dessert, an ice cream bar, and a brief program before dancing the night away. Reserve a table (10 seats) online by submitting names.

Community Dry Grad

After the Banquet and Dance, the celebration continues! Dry Grad runs from 11:00 PM to 5:00 AM at the Landing Leisure Centre. Enjoy casino games, prizes, character artists, music, inflatables, and endless food and drinks. Wear comfortable clothing and shoes for this action-packed night!

Guest Application for Grad Events

Grads can apply to bring a guest to Grad events (Grad Cruise, Banquet & Dance, Dry Grad), subject to space availability. As school events, guest applications may be denied. Guests must be Grade 10-12 students from the Chilliwack School District and require a character reference from an SD#33 principal or vice-principal.

Commencement Information Form

This form will be completed in the Grad Information Meeting in January. It is also available on the school website. This form indicates the correct spelling of your name, your graduation gown size and a brief statement that will be read as you cross the stage and must be submitted by **the beginning of February**.

Commencement Ceremony

- Grad Commencement is a formal ceremony held at the Chilliwack Coliseum in June.
- Students should arrive by 5:00 PM and be backstage by 5:30 PM for the processional lineup.
- Grads must wear their gowns over dress clothes and choose shoes suitable for dimly lit stairs.
- Gowns, hats, and stoles must be worn throughout the ceremony and are kept afterward.
- Arrive early for photos with family and friends before the ceremony.
- Respect the formal setting—no noise makers, socializing, or leaving for pictures.
- Students must stay seated in gowns and caps until the ceremony concludes.

Commencement Rehearsal

- The commencement rehearsal takes place the morning of Commencement.
- Grads attend their first class for attendance, then board buses at 8:45 AM to and from the Coliseum—no afternoon classes for Grade 12s.
- After rehearsal, students return to SSS for a provided lunch and are then dismissed for the day.
- Grads must take the bus—no personal vehicles allowed.
- Grad gown packages are distributed at school before the ceremony.

Commencement Tickets

Graduates will receive four complimentary commencement tickets, automatically added to student accounts. Additional tickets can be purchased for \$7 each via QuickPay, with a maximum of four extra tickets. For more than eight tickets, email sss_finance@sd33.bc.ca. All guests must have a ticket to enter commencement.

Graduation Fee

The Graduation fee covers the cost of Commencement, including the graduation gown, cap, tassel, stole, memento 5x7 grad photo, diploma, facility rental, and decorations.

Grad Portraits

Grad portraits, taken separately from regular school pictures, will be done by a professional photographer in December. Students should book their sessions on the SSS website. These portraits will be displayed at commencement, in the grad composite, and in the yearbook. All students must have a free photo taken, even if they do not plan to purchase a portrait package. Retakes will be available in the Spring.

Grad Rings

In October, grad rings can be purchased through Jostens Grad Rings in the common area. Orders may be placed by contacting 604-341-4321 or 1-888-746-4626 or by going to www.jostens.com