



James Fowler High School

Class of 2018

Graduation Activities Newsletter

March 12, 2018

Welcome

Welcome to the JFHS Class of 2018 Graduation Activities Newsletter. The purpose of this newsletter is to inform parents and students of important dates and details as well as the requirements necessary to participate in the graduation activities for the 2018 Graduation Ceremony and Banquet. In addition to reading this newsletter, students should listen for announcements in the daily student bulletins, look for information posted on bulletin boards throughout the school and connect to our school website.

Requirements

In order to participate in the Graduation Ceremony and Graduation Banquet, students must qualify for the *Graduand List*. To be on the Graduand List, students must be in a program that will lead them to the full graduation requirements for their program by the end of June of their grade twelve year. Any course in which they have a grade below 50% at the reporting period [March 16, 2018], or which is withdrawn prior to the Closing Exercises, will not count towards this requirement.

The first draft of the Graduand List will be posted on the Graduation bulletin board on **Thursday, March 8th**. The information used to create the first draft of the list may not include (1) previous courses taken outside of Alberta, and (2) courses students are currently taking away from Fowler [e.g. CBe-learn]. All students are asked to check the list. If your name does not appear on the list, but you are confident you meet the requirements, you should complete a Graduand List Appeal form. These forms are available in Student Services (our guidance office).

An updated draft of the Graduand List will be posted following the first reporting period of 2nd semester on **Thursday, March 22nd**. It is important to note that students whose name has been removed from the Graduand List due to receiving a mark below 50% during the first reporting period of 2nd semester will have the opportunity to show that they **meet the requirements of the graduand list by Thursday, April 19th**. The final Graduand List will be posted on **Monday, April 23, 2018**.

Students, who are intending on including a CBe-learn online course toward their graduation requirements, will need to register in the course no later than **Thursday, March 1st**. Once registered, they will need to make an appointment with their guidance councilor and show their progress in the course in order to be included on the Graduand List.

Graduation Ceremony

The Graduation Ceremony will be held at the Jubilee Auditorium on **Thursday, May 24, 2018** from 2:30 until 4:30 pm. Students must be on the Graduand List to participate. The graduating students will not need a ticket to participate. **All guests** (including infants and small children) must have a ticket. Tickets will be distributed (at no cost) **Friday, May 4, 2018**, from the Student Centre between 2:15 pm and 5:30 pm. This will be a first come first serve opportunity to obtain tickets for guests attending the Ceremony. For any students unable to obtain their tickets at this time, a parent or guardian may obtain tickets on their behalf, otherwise students will need to see Ms. Element or Ms. Archibald **Monday, May 7th** during lunch hour in the Science Office. Students should now begin considering whom they will invite and anticipate being able to obtain tickets for approximately five guests in the first round. A second round will occur only if there are tickets remaining.

Graduation Banquet and Dance

The Graduation Banquet and Dance will be held at the BMO Centre at Stampede Park on **Friday, May 25, 2018** from 6:00 until 11:30 pm (doors open at 5:30 pm). The BMO Centre is where most high schools have their banquets, and will provide our students and their families with a special and memorable formal experience.

The banquet and dance are being held on a different day than the ceremonies to allow students and their families more opportunity to prepare for the evening. In the past, the banquet and dance have followed the ceremony on the same day, and it was very difficult for students and their families to attend the banquet on time.

Students on the Graduand List will need to purchase a ticket for themselves and their guests. The tickets will cost **\$90.00 per person**. Tickets sales will begin on **Monday, April 23rd**.

It is important to note that along with the requirement of being on the final Graduand List to purchase tickets for both the Graduation Ceremony and Banquet, it is also necessary that all school fees be paid in full prior to the purchase dates listed above.

Graduation Portraits

Students who have not yet had their graduation portraits taken should contact the main office at Lifetouch (403-255-5440). Students who want their pictures in the yearbook need to organize a portrait sitting before **January 28, 2018**.

Valedictorian

Each year a Valedictorian is selected from the graduating class who will present an address to all the students, teachers, and guests during the Closing Exercises at the Jubilee Auditorium. A Valedictorian must be a leader of the school community, a strong student in his or her program, and a good public speaker. Students interested in seeking the position of Valedictorian must submit an application form to Ms. Whiteley no later than **Friday, March 9th**.

Budget

Students are encouraged to meet with their Counsellor or Assistant Principal to discuss preparing a budget for their graduation activities.

Important Dates

March 8	First Graduand List Posted
March 9	Valedictorian Applications are due
April 19	Deadline for meeting requirements
April 23	Final Graduand List Posted
April 23 – May 3	Banquet Tickets Sales
May 4	Distribution of Ceremony Tickets
May 22	Graduation Rehearsal
May 24	Closing Exercises [2:30 pm– 4:30pm]
May 25	Banquet and Dance [6:00 pm – 11:30 pm]

Questions

Students or parents should address their questions to the following staff:

Budgeting and Other Planning: Student's Counsellor [Surnames A-L Ms. Hellard; M-Z Ms. Latak] or Mr. Flaman or Mr. Johnson

Banquet and Dance: Ms Archibald

Ceremonies: Ms. Element

General Concerns: Designated Assistant Principal or Mr. Johnson