

HOME OF THE SPARTANS

Strathmore High School

100 Brent Boulevard ~ Strathmore, Alberta T1P 1V2 • Tel. (403) 934-3135 • Fax (403) 934-6694

Principal: Gary Reagan

Associate Principal: Kyle Larson

Associate Principal: Doug Raycroft

October 28, 2012

Dear Grade 12 Parents/Guardians:

This is the second letter SHS has sent you regarding Grad 2012. Copies of all letters are posted on our website so feel free to review the information from this and the previous letter on line throughout the year. As we mentioned in the September letter, Grad is scheduled for May 26, 2012. This is an important event in the lives of our Grade 12 students and for this reason Grad Advisors, Mrs. Pedersen & Mr. Pirie, met with the Grade 12's on Oct. 27 to outline what the recognition day looks like at Strathmore High School. Our Recognition consists of two parts both of which are held at the school.

Grade 12's who are eligible to graduate, participate in a ceremony held at the school beginning at 1 pm. This ceremony which sees both students and teachers dressed in their academic gowns, consists of speeches from various dignitaries and presentation of the certificates. This ceremony should be concluded by 3pm. After the ceremony, students and parents have a **choice** as to what venue they would like to attend for a meal as there is **no school organized banquet**. Last year, students and parents had a celebratory meal at local restaurants, homes, Calgary venues and some attended a parent organized meal. As outlined in our September letter, Strathmore High School will not be endorsing or supporting any organized meal and teachers will not be attending in any official capacity in order to support the concept of student and parent choice.

The second part of our day begins at 8 pm. The Evening Celebration will consist of a Grand March, tributes and a dance. The Grade 12 Student Committee may want to include other activities. A photographer will be present throughout the evening for those who want family or sweetheart photos and refreshments will be provided.



Grad Pictures will take place this year from February 27th to March 2nd. We are pleased that our pictures this year will be done by Platinum Photography. A change in the photography company has resulted in a reduction in the sitting fee for pictures from \$45 to \$30 and Platinum will provide a complimentary copy of the Grad Composite to all Grads. We ask all Grads to have their picture taken by Platinum to ensure their picture is in the composite and yearbook. Students wanting to use another photographer are asked to still have the composite picture done by Platinum and there is no sitting fee charged for this.

All Grade 12 students are encouraged to get involved in planning and organizing Grad. One of the first events we will be discussing is the annual Christmas Formal which has traditionally been hosted by the Grads. If the Grad committee chooses to host this event, we anticipate it will take place on December 8th. This event requires parent volunteers to help supervise and parents to provide snacks. We will be updating parents and students via the website and a phone fan out.

The Grad Committee meets Wednesdays during lunch hours in Room 116. As mentioned, all Grade 12's are welcome to attend at anytime. We are hopeful that at least 15 Grade 12's would choose to be involved on a regular basis. Safe Grad is never discussed at any of our meetings as the school cannot participate in any way for liability reasons.

An outline of important dates and events is outlined on the following page. Please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours truly,

Mr. Pirie and Mrs. Pedersen

GRADUATION OUTLINE 2012

DATE: May 26, 2012

Planning: As Grad advisors, we will be relying on 10 -- 15 grade 12 volunteers to form a Grad Planning Committee. They will meet each Wed in Room 116 at lunch. **All Grade 12's are welcome to attend!**

Activities: As a Grad fee is charged, there is **no fundraising**. All activities are done for fun and to add to the memory of Grade 12.

Christmas Dance: The Grad Committee **may choose** to host a dance. Traditionally, this is a semi formal event that includes door prizes, snacks and drink. Parents are needed to supervise and bring food.

Grad Pictures: Taken by Platinum the week of Feb 27. All students must have their picture taken by Platinum so it can be included in the yearbook and composite. Students who want their photos done by another company can simply inform Platinum cameraman and no fee will be charged for the two photos taken. i.e. There is **NO charge to have photos taken for yearbook & composite.**

Grad Rings: First order dates will be Oct 12 & 13

Grad Pow Wow: A tradition at SHS has been the Grade 12 Pow Wow. If our native students chose to organize one again this year all grads are urged to participate in this colorful salute to our Grads. Please watch for details about this event in the coming months.

Outline of Graduation Day – May 26th Ceremony:

The Ceremony is at the school and begins at 1 pm. Doors will open at 11:30 pm and it should be noted that there is no reserved seating. The ceremony consists of congratulatory speeches and presentation of certificates to each student concluding by 3:00 pm.

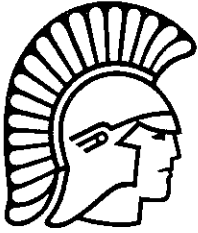
Evening Celebration: This celebration begins at 8 pm. Grand March will take place at 9 pm followed by Tributes, year in review, and a dance. More ideas and details added throughout the year.

Parent / Student Meal: There is **NO organized banquet by the school**. Parents and students are encouraged to attend a meal that suits best their family, friends and financial considerations.

Family/Sweetheart Photos: A Platinum photographer is available throughout the evening for family/sweetheart/friends photos. Information & prices will be made available closer to May 26th.

Keeping Informed

Please check the website www.strathmorehighschool.com on a regular basis. We encourage all grads to keep informed. If you have urgent questions your student cannot answer you are welcome to phone Mr. Pirie or Mrs. Pedersen at the school (934-3135).



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Eligibility Requirements and Process

Introduction – In October, Mrs. Pedersen, Mr. Pirie, Mr. Reagan and the Counsellors met with all Grade 12's to go over the requirements to be eligible to participate in the Recognition Ceremonies which are:

1. As of May 2, 2012 a student must be eligible to receive a High School Diploma, the Knowledge and Employability Certificate, or the Transitions Certificate.
 - a) a student in the regular program must be registered in a minimum 105 credit program, and a student in K and E. must be registered in a minimum 85 credit program unless the student in each program has a full course load. Students must have six of eight blocks of time full.
 - b) a student must be passing all those courses that are required for the diploma/certificate sought
 - c) if a student is taking any courses through correspondence, Virtual or Outreach programs, seventy-five percent of all lessons must be successfully completed by May 2, 2012.
2. All course, textbook, and grad fees must be paid in full. There can be no outstanding fees or textbooks.
3. The student must be registered in Strathmore High School and taking the majority of his or her core Grade 12 program at Strathmore High School in the second term.
4. The student has not participated in any other Grad Ceremony

The first eligibility lists will be posted following the report card on March 14, 2012. The lists will indicate which students are eligible, which have problems or issues to be resolved and also those who are not eligible. Students will have until the next report card on May 2, 2012 to correct all deficiencies. The final eligibility list will be posted after this report card. Grade 12 students will be expected to convey key dates and details about eligibility to their parents. Throughout the year parents can check our newsletters or our school website www.strathmorehighschool.com for updated information on the Recognition Ceremonies.

Hopefully, students plan carefully and work hard so that they have a clear eligibility. Last year, more than 20 students were not eligible to participate because of credit problems. If students drop courses, do not complete all modules in CTS courses, or fail courses during the first term, they must see a counselor immediately to pick up additional courses if necessary to meet eligibility requirements. All Grade 12 students are encouraged to make an appointment with a counselor early in the school year to ensure that they will meet all requirements and so that they will be eligible to participate in Recognition Ceremonies and receive their diploma or certificate.