



BARRHEAD COMPOSITE HIGH SCHOOL
Grad Handbook

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Principal's Message

At the end of this booklet is a page to detach and return to the school. It is a declaration indicating that both the student(s) and parent/guardian(s) have read and understand the graduation expectations of the school.

The intent of this booklet is to provide information for graduates and their parents that will hopefully make the graduation experience more positive. It is also hoped that by clarifying the roles and responsibilities, confusion and disappointment can be eliminated or minimized.

To start with, I want to clarify the **graduation criteria**. The only way to have a true graduation would be to host the event in the fall after the June and August exam results are validated. But tradition has established that we hold graduation the last weekend in June after all Diploma exams have been written. The staff of the school believes that there should be a code or standard in order to participate in this illustrious event but we also believe that students should be given every opportunity to participate. As a result, we have decided that students will be placed on the graduation list if they:

1. Are enrolled in the necessary courses and credits needed to fulfill the graduation criteria.
2. Student using a correspondence course must have it completed and received by Alberta Distance Learning Center by June 1st.
3. Students must be passing all courses required for graduation by the third week of June.
4. Students must have discharged all outstanding financial obligations to the school including; fees, library fines, and book returns.
5. Be considered a registered, full time equivalent student at BCHS **by completing a minimum of ten credits within a classroom in BCHS during their grade 12 year.**
6. Remain in good standing within the school and community.

Students and parents must understand this criteria and timelines to avoid disappointment. It will result in some students participating in the graduation ceremonies who truly do not graduate in June. Participating in the graduation ceremony does not automatically equal High School Diploma achievement.

I also want to make it clear that the High School Student Graduation Committee, under the supervision of the staff advisors, is solely responsible for the planning and presentation of the Graduation Ceremony. The Celebration Committee is a community based group that has traditionally planned a Celebration Banquet including after grad activities, and the school is clearly removed from responsibility for these events.

Sincerely,

Slade Sekulich

Principal BCHS

Barrhead Composite High School

Graduation 2026

Graduation 2026 will be held on Thursday, June 25th. The format is as follows:

The convocation will take place in the Barrhead Agrena beginning at 10:00 am sharp.

The event is closed to the public, and is by invitation only. Each student will be issued 7 complimentary passes for guests (which must be presented at the door) for the morning part of graduation. If a student needs more passes, they may ask classmates for extra passes. There may also be some extra tickets when students pick up their grad packages in June, they can request to be put on a waiting list should they wish to receive a few extra tickets as well. Please understand that we may not be able to fulfill all additional ticket requests. **Remember graduating students do not need morning passes.**

The dinner/dance (social evening) is arranged by the parent committee, NOT the school, and may follow the same format as last year. All inquiries about the banquet/social evening are to be directed to the parents' executive, NOT the school. This year, Jodi Dancause is the president of the Parent Council, and she can be reached at 780-288-5992 with any questions about the evening.

Grad fees have been set at \$70.00, payable to BCHS. Fees will be collected from now until June 1, 2026 (list of expenses is attached). Fees may be paid via cheque, cash or online in **powerschool parent portal**, under fees during this time.

Please do not assume that because your child has filled out their grad survey, voted in the grad council elections, and helped to fundraise that they will be on the grad list in June. If you are in doubt as to the graduation status of your child, please call Mr. Sekulich to discuss this matter as soon as possible.

All monies (school fees, lab fees, sport team fees, library fines etc.) owing to the school must be paid before a graduate can participate in the graduation ceremonies. Please call the office if you are unsure of your student's account status.

We would hope that the addition of tributes would not need to be considered but the following guidelines have been established to ensure that classmate is remembered in an appropriate way. They will be remembered in the Grad Book and The Graduation Ceremony (if requested by the family). It is the responsibility of the School Graduation Council to plan and present The Tribute during the ceremony. The Tribute may be a speech, appropriate song or a combination of these options. The presentation will be limited to approximately 5 minutes, positive, motivational and/ or inspiring.

If you wish any further information, please call one of the following at BCHS (674-8522): Mr. Sekulich, Principal, Mrs. McGinn or Mrs. Schmidt Grad Advisors

Finance

When the Student's Graduation council establishes a budget, they consider all of the elements of the event and then determine/ estimate what the costs might be based upon the past history and also inflation. They then determine the student graduation fee, which is the fee for participating in the

School ceremony ONLY. This fee covers the items listed below. In addition to that fee, the

Student might choose to have formal graduation pictures taken, buy a memento (ex. Grad ring) and purchase social tickets from the graduation parent council.

<u>Income</u>	Opening Balance (provided by previous grad council)	\$500
	Grad fees- assuming 125 grads @ \$70.00 each	\$8750
	Fundraising (Pasta Supper)	\$2000
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	Total	approx. \$11 250

Expenses

Office Supplies/ Incidentals	\$1000
Agrena Rental/Sound System	\$1700
Gown Purchase/Caps/Tassels	\$4000
Grad Book	\$3300
Five Year Reunion	\$500
Lawn Pictures	\$600
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Total Expenses	approx. \$11 100

BARRHEAD COMPOSITE HIGH SCHOOL

FEES FOR GRAD 2026

Gown/ Hat/ Tassel \$30.00

5 Year Reunion \$5.00

Grad Book \$20.00

Postage/Decorations/Incidentals \$15.00

Grad Fees **\$70.00**

Grad Council

MEMBERS/RESPONSIBILITIES/TIMELINES

The people in the council are responsible for the ceremony on your graduation day, **ONLY**. They are not responsible for the Celebration Banquet later. The council is elected by the grade 12 class. In order to compete for a position on grad council, you must be eligible to graduate. If you lose this eligibility you will be asked by the principal to resign. Nominees must also be enrolled in classes in the building in order to be available to the student body as needed. Being on the grad council is fun, but it is also hard work. You can be criticized for decisions you either make or don't make. Overall, it is a worthwhile experience.

GOAL

The goal of this council is to plan and present a formal graduation ceremony that is representative of the norms and standards of the school and community.

STRUCTURE

At the beginning of the second semester, the staff advisors will call for nominations for the student graduation executive. Then students who are nominated can run a campaign, followed by speeches and an election of an executive council.

POSITIONS FOR ELECTION

PLEASE NOTE Students who have had a suspension at any point in the current school year are ineligible for nomination to a position on Grad Council.

President: Conducts meetings, responsible for the ceremony program, fee collection and assists other council members with their respective responsibilities.

Vice-President: Acts as chair in absence of president, responsible for fundraising and for organizing the 5-year reunion.

Secretary: Takes minutes, writes letters and helps organize fundraising.

Business Manager: Communication management to the grad class, and social media posts.

Parent Liaison Reps: These reps will be the graduate's connection to the parent Celebration Committee. Celebration Banquet items such as decorations, dinner, grand march etc. are planned by the Parent Committee.

Grad Book Editors: Responsible and understand criteria and expectations outlined in it. We also know that should we have any questions, we are to contact the school Grad Advisors or the school principal.

