



**Calgary Board
of Education**

Central Memorial High School
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CELEBRATING THE CLASS OF 2026!



**CENTRAL MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL
GRADUATION CEREMONY & BANQUET
JUNE 4, 2026
GREY EAGLE RESORT & CASINO**

**CLASS OF
2026**

learning | [as unique](#) | as every student

DATES AT A GLANCE

DECEMBER 19, 2025 | INITIAL GRADUATION LIST: Student Services will be communicating with families/students who are at **high-risk** of not graduating **ONLY**. Do not expect communication.

FEBRUARY 12, 2026 | GRADUATION LIST: Student Services will be communicating with families/students who are at high-risk of not graduating and those students who may need immediate adjustments to their timetable. Do not expect communication. If there is concern about requirements, please book to see your counsellor.

FEBRUARY 12, 2026 | SPEECH APPLICATIONS RELEASE DATE: Forms will be available on D2L, at the main office or from Ms. Boutilier in room 110 or Ms. Power in room 108

MARCH 20, 2026 | UPDATED GRADUATION LIST: Student Services will be communicating with **ALL** families regarding graduation status.

APRIL 3, 2026 | SPEECH APPLICATIONS DUE DATE: Applications must be submitted to Ms. Power via email ampower@cbe.ab.ca or Ms. Boutilier via email at dhboutilier@cbe.ab.ca

APRIL 13, 2026 - APRIL 16, 2026 | SPEECH AUDITIONS: Invites are sent out by Wednesday, April 8th. If you are selected, you will be contacted to book an audition date from April 13 – April 16, 2026

APRIL 24, 2026 | SPEECH CANDIDATES ANNOUNCEMENT: Successful candidates will be notified and final confirmation of the candidate's acceptance of the speaking role by April 24, 2026.

APRIL 21, 2026 – APRIL 30, 2026 | CEREMONY TICKET REQUEST: Tickets will be reserved online. Details will be shared in homeroom on April 10 & 17, 2026. There is no cost for ceremony tickets. Due to venue capacity, there will be 4 tickets available per family. Requests for extra tickets -if available- can be made during round #2 of ticket reservations.

- ⇒ **APRIL 21, 2026 – APRIL 23, 2026 | CEREMONY TICKET RESERVATIONS, ROUND #1:** This will provide families an opportunity to reserve their initial 4 tickets per family.
- ⇒ **APRIL 28, 2026 – APRIL 30, 2026 | CEREMONY TICKET RESERVATIONS, ROUND #2:** Subject to availability after round #1 of ceremony ticket reservations, families MIGHT have an opportunity to reserve additional tickets.

APRIL 27, 2026 – MAY 16, 2026 | BANQUET TICKET REQUEST: Details will be shared in homeroom on April 10 & 17, 2026. All attendees must purchase a ticket, including Graduates. Please only purchase tickets for guests who have confirmed, as REFUNDS CAN NOT be provided.

- ⇒ **APRIL 27, 2026 – MAY 1, 2026 | Banquet Ticket Sales, ROUND #1**
- ⇒ **MAY 11, 2026 – MAY 15, 2026 | BANQUET TICKET SALES, ROUND #2: Subject to availability after Round #1 ticket sales.**
- ⇒ **MAY 15, 2026 | NO BANQUET TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AFTER 11:59PM**

MAY 29, 2026 | GRADUATION REHEARSAL: Graduation rehearsal will take place during Periods 3 & 4. Information will be shared in homeroom on May 8th and 22nd. Gowns will be distributed after the graduation rehearsal.

- ⇒ **ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY FOR THE GRADUATION REHEARSAL**

JUNE 4, 2026 | GRADUATION CEREMONY 9:00AM-12:00PM

JUNE 4, 2026 | GRADUATION BANQUET DINNER & DANCE 6:00PM-11:00PM

GRADUATION PACKAGE

GENERAL INFORMATION & FAQ'S

INTRODUCTION:

This information package has been designed to help graduands, and their families, prepare for upcoming graduation events. Please read the entire package, to familiarize yourselves with upcoming dates & deadlines, communication & fees, details around the ceremony and banquet, and other important information to help graduands, and their families, plan for this exciting event,

COMMUNICATION:

Please ensure you are subscribed to receive emails from Central Memorial High School. Primary communication will be through school messenger, with additional resources from the CMHS website and the Student Services D2L shell.

GRADUATION LIST:

Students must be on the Central Memorial High School Graduation List to participate in the ceremony and purchase banquet tickets. Student Services will be communicating with families, regarding a student's graduation status. Only students who are at risk of not graduating will be contacted. It is the student's responsibility to ensure they are on the list, and their name is spelled correctly. Please meet with your Student Services Advisor if you have any questions or to address any concerns and follow the appeal process -if applicable.

WHO DO I CONTACT IF I HAVE ADDITIONAL INQUIRIES?

- ⇒ Inquiries about Graduation List: Sam Groves (sagroves@cbe.ab.ca)
- ⇒ Inquiries about the Gown Orders: Jack Stogran (hlstogran@cbe.ab.ca)
- ⇒ Inquiries about Graduation Speeches: Denise Boutilier (dhboutilier@cbe.ab.ca)
- ⇒ Inquiries about the Ceremony: Suzana Dimitrijevic-Dawe (sudimitrijevic@cbe.ab.ca)
- ⇒ Inquiries about Banquet: Christine Hein (cchein@cbe.ab.ca)
- ⇒ Inquiries about the Ceremony & Banquet Tickets:
 - Christine Hein (cchein@cbe.ab.ca)
 - Hannah Abma (htabma@cbe.ab.ca)
- ⇒ Administrative Inquiries: Brian Cheney (bacheney@cbe.ab.ca)

Please allow for 48hrs – minimum – for an email reply. This provides staff time to manage their teaching responsibilities and time to consult with committee members/vendors, In order to provide a timely & accurate response.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

1. What does the mandatory \$85.00 Graduation fee cover?

- Rental of ceremony venue
- Audio-visual company fee
- Purchase Graduation Gown, stole & hat/tassel
- Graduation certificate from Jostens
- Graduation certificate keepsake
- Print materials for the event

2. Where do I pay the \$85.00 Graduation fee?

- Central Memorial Business Office.

3. If I don't attend the ceremony, am I still required to pay the graduation fee?

Yes, the fee is mandatory. The gown, stole, hat/tassel, certificates, and venue rental are acquired well in advance of the event. Therefore, we encourage all students to participate in the ceremony to celebrate their academic achievement.

4. What does the \$115.00 Banquet fee cover?

- Rental of banquet venue
- Audio-visual company fee
- Food and beverage services
- Decorations
- D.J. services
- Print materials for the event
- Grey Eagle Security Team

5. Are graduates required to purchase a banquet ticket for themselves?

The banquet is not mandatory for students to attend, but if they choose to attend, they must purchase a banquet ticket for themselves and all guests.

6. Who chose the menu for the banquet?

Grey Eagle Resort & Casino's Event Centre chooses the food options.

GRADUATION SPEECHES

GENERAL INFORMATION

Starting: February 20th to April 2nd

Auditions & Selections: April 13th to April 17th

GRADUATION SPEECHES:

We encourage students to consider taking part as a speaker at Graduation. Please read the detailed information below. Applications can be picked up in the office or from the Student Services D2L starting on Friday, February 20th and are due on Thursday, April 2nd. For more information you may see Ms. Power in room 108 or Ms. Boutilier in room 110. Speakers will be chosen for the Valedictory address (delivered at the ceremony) and a variety of speakers at the banquet. See application for details.

THE AUDITION PROCESS:

In applying to be a grad speaker you are auditioning **for a general speaking role**. If you are selected, the actual role you have will be determined by the selection committee. You will have a chance to indicate which role you prefer, but there is no guarantee that you will end up in that role. Once the auditions are completed, the committee will select the best candidate for each speaking role.

1) Submit the “2026 Graduation Speech Application Form”

- Your responses to the prompts on the form will help to inform the committee’s choices. Clarity, tidiness and detail are all factors here – rushed, incomplete and sloppy applications do not make for a good first impression.
- You are applying for a general speaking role – no one is applying for a specific role. However, you can and should, indicate your preference in the application.
- If your application is accepted, you will be invited to the auditions. The invitations will be sent via email so make sure that you provide your preferred email address in the application.
- Once the selection committee has chosen the successful candidates, we will assign the speaking roles. Then you will begin the writing and practicing process. We will have a month for refining your speeches and rehearsing them. Given the tight time frame, you need to be available and able to work diligently and attend meetings during the month before grad.

2) Submit a writing sample. The sample must be no longer than 500-550 words and/or roughly 3:00 minutes in length.

- Your written sample will help to inform the committee’s choices so work on capturing the essence of the class of 2025 and in creating your own voice.
- If you wish, you can tailor the speech to the role you would most like to take on. However, most applicants find it easier to write in the style of a valedictory speech as the other categories are difficult to write before you know the full context of the grad events.
- Try to avoid clichés, look for authentic perspectives about your time at Central and try to speak to the experiences of the whole graduating class not just those of your social circle.
- You can also find tips and samples online but be wary of following a cookie cutter approach – such applications are often quite cliché and trite.
- Basic information about each style of speech can be found in the “Conventions of Graduation Speeches” section.
- If you have any questions or want to run some ideas by someone, speak with Ms. Power or Ms. Boutilier for some clarification. You can reach Ms. Power via email at ampower@cbe.ab.ca or find her in room 108, or Ms. Boutilier via email at dhboutilier@cbe.ab.ca or in room 110.

3) The auditions will consist of you delivering your speech.

- The selection committee will be comprised of a selection of teachers and administration.
- You need not have the whole piece memorized but you should be able to deliver it without looking and sounding like you are reading.
- The selection committee may also ask some follow up questions.

- If you are chosen for a speaking role at grad, you will then start to work with the coaches to write/re-write/edit/etc. and practice your speech. You will need to be available during the allotted time period to meet regularly for planning, editing and practice sessions.

4) Speaking Roles:

- Valedictorian – delivered during the graduation ceremony
- Historian – delivered during the graduation banquet (depending on the programming needs and the auditions)
- Masters of ceremony – delivered during the graduation banquet
- Toast to teachers – delivered during the graduation banquet (a teacher chosen by the grad committee will respond)
- Toast to parents – delivered during the graduation banquet (typically one or both parents/guardians will respond, so if you are selecting this speech then make sure your parent(s)/guardian(s) are willing to speak at the grad banquet)
- Acknowledgment of the land – delivered during the graduation ceremony

5) Criteria:

All candidates:

- An ability to be an engaging speaker.
- An ability to engage in a style and tone appropriate for the venue and the type of speech.
- An ability to represent the larger student body (active involvement in the culture of the school)
- Involvement in a range of activities/communities in the school
- An active and responsible presence in the school (attendance, positive attitude, etc.)
- The willingness to work collaboratively and responsibly with the coaches and other speakers.

Valedictorian:

- Current academic average of 85% or above
- Involvement in a range of activities/communities in the school
- An ability to represent the larger student body (active involvement in the culture of the school)

6) Conventions of Graduation Speeches:

The following lists address the core aspects of each speech. More information can certainly be found by consulting some “how to guides” and reviewing some actual speeches but don’t try to deliver in the style of someone else’s speech. The best speeches are able to balance your style and insights with the seriousness and reverence of the occasion in an authentic manner. If you have any questions, please speak with Ms. Power or Ms. Boutilier.

Valedictorian:

- A valedictory speech should be around 5:00 to 7:00 minutes long – long enough to get into some profound thoughts but not so long as to drag or be repetitive.
- A valedictory speech should have a theme and/or a controlling metaphor to add structure and focus (the theme may be self-generated or set by the grad committee).
- A valedictory speech should certainly be from your perspective, but it is not about you and your friends.
- A valedictory speech is first and foremost about the graduating class so, it should speak to the whole student body and their experiences without sounding like a list.
- A valedictorian should take time to speak with a variety of students (especially those outside of your normal social circles) to get insights into the experiences of the larger student body.
- A valedictory speech should acknowledge, parents, family, friends, teachers, etc. but only briefly (other speeches during the day will more directly address these important members of the audience).
- A valedictory speech should be about something, take a stand and have a point but not be preachy.
- A valedictory speech should avoid clichés and trite platitudes like, “we are the future”.
- A valedictory speech should speak to what makes this graduation class/this moment tick – don’t just speak about graduating in general.
- A valedictory speech should address the past and the future.
- A valedictory speech should have a clear structure.
- A valedictory speech should use elevated language but not at the expense of a conversational tone.

Historian:

The historian is responsible for documenting the important events of the graduating class.

- A historian's speech should be around 5:00 to 7:00 minutes long.
- A historian should capture a wide range of the different academic and extracurricular aspects of the school.
- A historian should take time to speak with a variety of students (especially those outside of your normal social circles) to get insights into the experiences of the larger student body.
- A historian should capture the experiences of graduating class (life beyond the classroom but not "inappropriate" details).
- A historian should be engaging and funny where appropriate.
- A historian should avoid clichés.
- A historian's speech shouldn't cover the same ground as the valedictorian address or the MC's anecdotes.

Masters of Ceremony:

- The MCs are the hosts of the event and provide the structure that bridges the various speeches.
- There are usually two MC's but there could be more (any more than four would be too much). So, if you have a partner in mind make sure that the selection committee is aware.
- The MC's will open the event & provide a general introduction to the class of 2022.
- The MC's will be welcoming the parents, family, friends and graduates to the event.
- The MC's will provide some entertaining banter that sets up each speaker (the introduction of each speaker will provide some basic/entertaining information about their role in the school).
- The MC's will provide a conclusion for the event.

Toast to Teachers:

- The toast to the teacher provides a moment to reflect on the role that the teachers, staff and admin have played in the lives of the graduating class.
- The toast usually includes a few specific references to the teaching and learning experiences of the graduating class.
- The toast should also acknowledge the important work of the educational support staff, the caretakers, etc.
- The speech will end with an actual toast – i.e. "so please raise your glasses and join me in toasting the teachers."
- In some cases, a teacher will respond to the toast with a small speech. If this is the case we will let the speaker know so they can co-ordinate with the teacher.

Toast to Parents:

- The toast to the parents provides a moment to reflect on the role that parents, guardians, etc. have played in the lives of the graduating class.
- The toast usually includes a few specific references to common experiences students have with their families.
- The speech will end with an actual toast – i.e. "so please raise your glasses and join me in toasting our parents."
- In some cases, a parent will respond to the toast with a small speech. If this is the case, one or both parents of the speaker would be asked to participate. So, if you are interested in this role consider checking with your parents before you apply.

Giving of Thanks:

- Providing a non-denominational moment of gratitude before the meal.
- This is a short speech meant to add a moment of reflection and gratitude for not only the meal but also the chance to celebrate together with teachers, classmates, friends and family.



Acknowledgement of the Land:

- A Land Acknowledgment is a formal statement that recognizes and respects Indigenous Peoples as traditional stewards of this land and the enduring relationship that exists between Indigenous Peoples and their traditional territories.
- The basic elements of the speech are set out in the following outline for CBE events. However, a more personalized take that speaks to the class of 2024 is encouraged.

GRADUATION CEREMONY

Thursday, June 4th, 2026

Grey Eagle Resort & Casino's Event Centre

Graduands arrival at 8:00am

Ceremony 9:00am to 12:00pm

CEREMONY REHEARSAL:

All graduating students must participate in a MANDATORY Graduation Rehearsal on May 29, 2026, which will take place during Periods 3 & 4. At the beginning of Period #3, Students will be called down to main foyer to line-up and practice the ceremony processional. Please follow the directions from the teacher supervisors. Once students are lined up, the processional rehearsal shall begin, and students will make their way to the Main Gymnasium. Once all students are seated, the graduation ceremony & banquet organizers will proceed with the graduation presentation. After the rehearsal is complete, students will proceed to the Auxiliary Gymnasium to pick up their graduation gowns, stoles, and hats.

CEREMONY TICKETS:

- ⇒ Ceremony tickets are free but there is a limit of 4 tickets available per family, due to venue capacity. Tickets are required to enter the Grey Eagle Resort & Casino's Event Centre for the Graduation Ceremony. No one will be permitted entry without a ticket. Subject to availability after Round #1 of ceremony ticket reservations, families MIGHT an opportunity to reserve additional tickets. If so, tickets will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis.
- ⇒ Details about how to order tickets will be shared in homeroom on April 10 & 17, 2026. Additionally, information about online ordering will be sent out via SCHOOL MESSENGER in April (after Spring Break). Please ensure you are checking you email frequently.

APRIL 21, 2026 – APRIL 30, 2026 | CEREMONY TICKET REQUEST: Due to venue capacity, there will be 4 tickets available per family, in Round #1. Requests for extra tickets -if available- can be made during Round #2 of ticket reservations.

- ⇒ **APRIL 21, 2026 – APRIL 23, 2026 | CEREMONY TICKET RESERVATIONS, ROUND #1:** This will provide families an opportunity to reserve their initial 4 tickets per family.
- ⇒ **APRIL 28, 2026 – APRIL 30, 2026 | CEREMONY TICKET RESERVATIONS, ROUND #2:** Subject to availability after Round #1, additional tickets will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis.
- ⇒ **APRIL 30, 2026 | CEREMONY TICKETS DEADLINE; NO MORE TICKET RESERVATIONS**

CEREMONY ATTIRE:

The event is semi-formal, and we encourage graduands to dress appropriately. *Students must wear their gown, stole and hat to be allowed to cross the stage.* Please leave items like jackets, purses, cellphones and any other personal items with family or friends; the school/staff will not assume responsibility for the security of any personal items. These items will not be allowed to be taken with you into the ceremony. No exceptions.

CEREMONY INFORMATION:

- **8:00am** | All graduands arrive at the Grey Eagle Resort & Casino's Event Centre and are in the proper ceremony attire with their gown, stole, and hat on. Proceed to line-up area by following the directions of the Central Memorial staff after you arrive. If you arrive late, you will not be in the Processional.
- **8:50am** | Graduands are ready in Processional line up.
- **9:00am** | Processional begins. Venue access to guests will be restricted until the Processional concludes. Please follow directions of Grey Eagle security and Central Memorial staff.
- **11:45am** | Recessional begins. Guests remain seated in venue until Recessional concludes. Please follow directions of Grey Eagle security and Central Memorial staff.
- **12:00pm** | Graduation Ceremony concludes.

GRADUATION BANQUET & DANCE

Thursday, June 4th, 2026

Grey Eagle Resort & Casino's Event Centre

Door Open at 5:30pm

Reception at 6:00pm

Dinner at 6:30pm

Dance to follow

BANQUET ATTIRE AND ETIQUETTE:

- Student dress is formal or semi-formal. Both long dresses and cocktail dresses are appropriate. Tuxedos, suits or jackets and dress pants are also appropriate.
- Banquet doors open at 6:00pm; dinner service will begin promptly at 6:30pm
- This is a buffet dinner reception. Should you have any questions at the banquet regarding food or service, please direct concerns to Grey Eagle Event Centre staff.
- **No alcohol is permitted at the Grey Eagle Resort & Casino's Event Centre.**
- All student, guest, and parent bags will be searched upon entry to the banquet area. Please be respectful of the Grey Eagle Resort & Casino's Event Centre security staff (it is their job to search all bags).
- Once guests have entered the banquet area they are required to remain inside.
- Re-entry is not permitted for students.
- Parents and/or guardians may re-enter; however, bags will be checked upon re-entry.

BANQUET PARKING & SECURITY:

- Parking is free at Grey Eagle Resort & Casino's Event Centre for the day.
- The area west of the Grey Eagle Resort & Casino's Event Centre Eagle designated as a taxi, car, or limousine drop-off.

BANQUET MEAL OPTIONS:

- The Banquet meal will be a buffet.
- Vegetarian/vegan meal options are available at the buffet.
- Special dietary menus are created ONLY for guests with severe allergies or food restrictions.
- Note: all menu items may contain trace amounts of gluten, dairy, nuts and nut oils.
- We are unable to accommodate food preference.
- If there are any severe allergies or food restrictions, please identify this when ordering
- More information about ordering tickets through RYCOR will be provided at a later date,

BANQUET TICKET SALES:

APRIL 27, 2026 – MAY 16, 2026: DETAILS WILL BE SHARED IN HOMEROOM ON APRIL 10 & 17, 2026. ALL ATTENDEES MUST PURCHASE A TICKET, INCLUDING GRADUATES. PLEASE ONLY PURCHASE TICKETS FOR GUESTS WHO HAVE CONFIRMED, AS REFUNDS CAN NOT BE PROVIDED.

⇒ **APRIL 27, 2026 – MAY 1, 2026 | BANQUET TICKET SALES, ROUND #1**

⇒ **MAY 11, 2026 – MAY 15, 2026 | BANQUET TICKET SALES, ROUND #2: SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY AFTER ROUND #1 TICKET SALES.**

⇒ **MAY 16, 2026 | NO BANQUET TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AFTER 11:59PM**

PURCHASING BANQUET TICKETS:

- Ticket cost: \$115.00 (incl GST) per banquet ticket.
- Grad banquet tickets are ordered online.
- Method of payment – to be confirmed with vendor
- To purchase Banquet tickets students must have all school fees paid in full by April 10th, 2026. A “Hold” will be placed on purchasing banquet tickets for the student until fees have been paid. Any fees paid after this date will result in the possibility of not being able to purchase tickets on the first day of sales.
- You must clear your account either by going to the Business Office in-person or by phone at 403-243-8880 ext. 2308 and pay your outstanding fees.

For groups wanting to be seated together:

- Tables seat parties of 10 people.
- If graduands wish to sit at the same and/or adjacent tables, they will need to indicate this at the time of purchase.
- Students are responsible for choosing with whom they sit with at the banquet.
- Once seats have been chosen, they cannot be changed. There may be an administrative change to accommodate seating for other families. For example, a family of 5 cannot have a table of 10 to themselves; another family of 5 will be placed at the table of 10.

IMPORTANT NOTE: ALL BANQUET TICKET SALES ARE FINAL AND NON-REFUNDABLE

HOW DO I ORDER MY GRAD BANQUET TICKETS?

- Detailed instructions and the order forms will be shared at a later date.
- Information will be distributed in homeroom, weekly RAM school newsletter, School Messenger, and the Central Memorial School Website.

ANY BANQUET OR TICKETING CONCERNS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO:

- ⇒ Inquiries about Banquet and Tickets: Christine Hein (cchein@cbe.ab.ca)
- ⇒ Administration, Banquet Tickets: Brian Cheney (bacheney@cbe.ab.ca)