

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE

2024 GRADUATION

APPLICATION INFORMATION



IT IS SOLELY THE STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO:

- < ENSURE THEY HAVE MET THE
ONTARIO SECONDARY SCHOOL DIPLOMA
REQUIREMENTS
- < VERIFY THAT THEIR CREDIT CHECK IS
ACCURATE AND COMPLETE
- < BE AWARE OF THE INFORMATION
CONTAINED IN THIS PACKAGE
- < APPLY FOR THE DIPLOMA AND AWARDS
- < APPLY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE
GRADUATION CEREMONY
- < MEET ALL THE DEADLINES OUTLINED IN
THIS DOCUMENT
- < BE AWARE OF THE PRINCIPAL'S HONOUR
ROLL AND ONTARIO SCHOLAR CRITERIA

Requirements to Graduate and Participate:

O.S.S.D.--Ontario Secondary School Diploma--In order to earn an Ontario Secondary School Diploma, a student must earn a minimum of 30 credits distributed as follows, fulfill Literacy requirements, and complete the 40 Hours Community Service.

Compulsory Credits (total of 18)

4 Credits in English (1 credit per grade)

3 Credits in Mathematics (at least 1 in Grade 11 or 12)

2 Credits in Science

1 Credit in Canadian Geography

1 Credit in Canadian History

1 Credit in the Arts

1 Credit in Physical and Health Education

1 Credit in French as a Second Language

.5 Credit in Civics

.5 Credit in Career Studies

- 1 of English **or** French as a Second Language **or** Native Language **or** Classical or International Language **or** Social Sciences and the Humanities **or** Canadian and World Studies **or** Guidance and Career Education **or** Cooperative Education
- 1 of Health and Physical Education **or** Arts **or** Business Studies **or** French as a Second Language **or** Cooperative Education
- 1 of Science (Grade 11 or 12) or Technological Education (Grades 9 - 12) **or** French as a Second Language **or** Computer Studies **or** Cooperative Education
- 12 additional credits from available courses including compulsory Religious Study credits
- Pass Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test
- Complete 40 hours of Community Involvement Activities & submit the form
- Online learning grad requirement

SJC Requirements to Participate in the Ceremony:

- paid the grad fee associated with participating in the grad ceremony
- completed all grad requirements
- attend the grad rehearsal

Graduation Newsletter

September 2023

Dear 2024 Graduates,

The date of graduation for next year is **Thursday, June 27, 2024**. This package contains many deadline dates and directions, please keep it for further reference. You will also find grad information on the school website under 'Student Services'.

Only students who have earned a diploma by June 21, 2024 will be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony. If you wish to participate you must have completed the required 30 credits (including 18 compulsory credits), the 40 hours of community service, the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test and the Online Grad Requirement (2 E-learning courses).

GRADUATION PHOTOS:

Grads will be responsible for booking their own grad photo date and time through Edge Imaging's online booking system. *Online booking information will be emailed to you by Mrs. Ronson once your grad application and grad fee has been received through School Cash Online. *This email does not happen automatically so be patient as it could take a few days from the time you submitted your application & fee.* If you want to be in the composite and the yearbook, you must have your picture taken at this time. For consistency, only pictures taken by our photographer will be included in the composite. You are not obligated to order any of these pictures. Photo retakes and missed appointments will have to be arranged by the student through Edge Imaging's online booking system. The graduation photos will be taken at St. John's College at the back of Student Services between: **JANUARY 9-19, 2024. More details will follow at a later date.**

VALEDICTORIAN NOMINATIONS:

Valedictorian nomination forms are enclosed. They are also available from Mr. MacKinlay. The completed form **must be submitted to Mr. MacKinlay by DECEMBER 8, 2023**. If no nominations are forth coming, there either will not be a valedictorian, or the Principal may choose to ask a student to assume the honour. If there are more than five nominations the valedictorian committee will choose five candidates, based on the information in the package and the essay submitted and a vote will be taken.

GRADUATION FEES:

Graduation entails a great deal of planning and therefore we need your cooperation. Graduation gowns, programs and composites must be ordered. Your graduation fee will be due and must be paid online by **October 31, 2023**. The Grad Fee is **\$100.00** per student. This amount includes the **\$30 non-refundable sitting fee** for grad photos and associated ceremony costs. Prom tickets and the Grad Retreat are not included in this cost. If you do not graduate you will receive a refund, however if you choose not to participate fees will not be refunded after **May 1, 2024**.

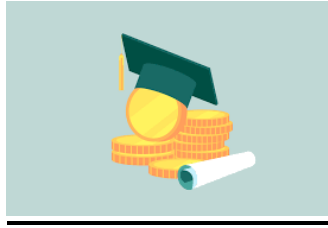
DEADLINE DATES

STAY INFORMED

The following deadlines are firm. These deadlines are set in order for us to meet our commitments. Failure on your part to meet these deadlines will result in your being excluded from these items/events.

EVENT	DATE
Graduation Application & Graduation Fee Submitted via School Cash Online	October 31, 2023
Valedictorian Nomination Submitted to Mr. MacKinlay	December 8, 2023
Graduation Photos	January 9-19, 2024
40 Hours Community Service completed for Graduation	January 31, 2024 by 3:00pm
Graduation Photo Retakes	February 26 & 27, 2024
Completed Applications for SJC Bursaries/Awards due to Student Services	February 28, 2024 by 3:00pm
Honour J/Eagle Applications Due	April 30, 2024
Graduation Fee Refund Deadline	May 1, 2024
Final Draft of Valedictorian Speech to Teacher Advisor	May 31, 2024
Graduation Prom <i>*tentative date</i>	May 31, 2024
Final Revision of MC's Program	June 21, 2024
Graduation Rehearsal 9:00 – 12:00am at Sanderson Centre <i>*attendance is mandatory</i>	June 26, 2024
Graduation Ceremony 7:00pm at Sanderson Centre	June 27, 2024

AWARD INFORMATION & APPLICATIONS



SJC AWARDS, BURSARIES AND SCHOLARSHIPS:

Online applications for these specific awards will be available at www.sjconline.ca under Student Services in January. Applications must be completed on the computer and submitted to Student Services. Please read carefully the criteria for each application of awards to ensure you qualify.

Due Date: **February 28, 2024**

NOTE: The Catholic Student Award will be selected from the applications submitted for the Reginald F. Kempa Christian Living Award and The Catholic Christian Service Award.

ADDITIONAL AWARDS, BURSARIES AND SCHOLARSHIPS:

There are so many opportunities for additional awards, bursaries and scholarships outside of the ones St. John's offers at graduation. It is the responsibility of the students to become familiar with various awards that may be appropriate for them. Students are encouraged to look at the following websites:

- scholartree.ca
- studentscholarships.org
- studentawards.com
- scholarshipscanada.com

Students can also inquire at various community organizations for scholarship possibilities like banks, parishes, clubs, sports organizations, etc.. In addition to these, students should explore bursaries and scholarships offered by their prospective post-secondary institutions they are applying to for the following year.

PRINCIPAL'S HONOUR ROLL:



CRITERIA:

Students who qualify for the Principal's Honour Roll at Graduation must meet these requirements:

- 80% average in minimum six courses and be recognized as a full-time student (September – June mandatory six courses)
- Average is calculated with **best six** courses taken in the Gr. 12 school year including summer school courses (offered by our BOARD) taken the summer prior to beginning Gr. 12, as well as any e-learning courses taken through PRISM
- Students must have completed their Gr. 12 Religion course to be eligible
- Averages are calculated using ONLY courses taken with the BRANT HALDIMAND NORFOLK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
- Courses completed with another board **would not** be eligible towards the Principal's Honour Roll
- Courses completed with outside online platforms including, but not limited to: Blyth Academy, ilc.org, or Ontario Virtual High School **would not** be eligible towards the Principal's Honour Roll

****If you have any questions please see your Guidance Counsellor***

AWARD:

Students who meet the above requirements will be announced upon receiving their diploma and will receive a Principal's Honour Roll Certificate.

ONTARIO SCHOLAR:



CRITERIA:

A student who obtains a total of at least 480 marks in any **Grade 12** ministry approved courses having a total of 6 credits, and who has been recommended by his or her principal for the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) in either the current school year or the previous school year, may be designated an Ontario Scholar.

AWARD: A student designated an Ontario Scholar will receive an Ontario Scholar and be announced upon receiving their diploma at the graduation ceremony.

Valedictorian

Valedictorian application forms are available as part of the “Leaving the Nest” graduation package. The completed form must be submitted to Mr. MacKinlay in the Student Services office by **December 8, 2023 at 3:00 pm**. Successful nominees will then be notified and asked to submit an essay to Mr. MacKinlay in the Student Services office by **January 12, 2024 at 3:00pm**. If no applications are forthcoming, there will either not be a Valedictorian or the Graduation Awards Selection Committee may choose to ask a student to assume the honour.

The successful candidates will present their written essays over the morning announcements on SJC-TV so that graduates may make an informed decision.

Role of the Valedictorian

- * To compose and deliver the valedictory address on behalf of the graduating students.
- * To epitomize the qualities for which graduates strive.
- * To represent the entire school community.
- * To exemplify the outcomes set for graduates of Ontario Catholic schools.

Criteria for Valedictorian

- * Must be a member of the graduating class and qualify to graduate by **June 21, 2024**.
- * Must have maintained a consistent, serious attitude towards their studies.
- * Must have maintained an average of 80% or higher during Semester 1, 2023 and continue through to midterm of Semester 2, 2024.
- * Must have demonstrated excellent written and oral ability through course work.
- * Must be willing to represent all interest groups and career aspirations of the graduating class.
- * Must be willing to express the philosophy of Catholic schools.
- * Must provide specific proof of the above criteria.

Valedictorian Selection Process

1. Successful Valedictorian Nominees who submitted their nomination form on **December 8, 2023**, must then complete the Valedictorian Application Form and submit the required essay by **January 12, 2024** to Mr. MacKinlay in Student Services.
2. Candidate may be either a) nominated by a staff member, OR, b) self-nominated.
3. The committee may select up to **five** candidates for valedictorian. The committee (members of the Graduation Awards Selection Committee) will base its selection:
 - a. The student's nomination/application form/300-word essay.
 - b. Verification of the student's academic and public speaking ability.
 - c. The committee's belief in the candidate's ability and willingness to represent the graduating class as a whole, as well as the values of our school system.**The committee's decisions are final, and no appeals will be heard.**
4. Valedictorian candidates will be given the opportunity to present their 300-word essay on "Why they are worthy candidates and meet the criteria for valedictorian", for an approximate one and a half minute presentation on morning announcements over SJC-TV: **March 5, 2024**. The candidates will appear in alphabetical order, one right after the other on this day. *This process will be reviewed for the graduating class by Mr. MacKinlay the day before, on **March 4, 2024**.
5. **Solicitation for votes by candidates by use of print or ANY social media will NOT BE PERMITTED.**
6. An online ballot will be created naming each of the selected candidates in alphabetical order.
7. Graduation candidates, who have paid to participate in graduation ceremony, are eligible voters.
8. The online vote will occur on **March 6, 2024, beginning at 8am and the vote will be open for 24 hours.**
9. The valedictorian will be announced within 24 hours after the online vote.

Terms of Valedictorian Contract

1. The Valedictorian address **must**:
 - a. Thank the graduating class for selecting them to speak on their behalf.
 - b. Honour the school's academic standards.
 - c. Reflect Catholic school / message of Jesus / values.
 - d. Mention extra-curricular events and involvement.
 - e. Be sure to speak for everyone work / college / university bound.
 - f. Mention classes' goals / responsibilities.
 - g. Contain a few personal comments.
 - h. Thank your parents / all parents.
 - i. Thank the administrative team, faculty, and staff.
 - j. Mention your hopes, dreams for the future and that of your peers.
 - k. Not refer to specific individuals by name, students and/or teachers.
 - l. Use the proper order in which address guests: Clergy members, distinguished guests, Trustees, Senior Administration, Staff, Graduates, Family and Friends.
 2. The valedictorian **must** work with a staff advisor, Mr. Johnathan Saliccioli, in March, April and May to work through the process of writing the address.
 3. The valedictorian **must** submit a **first draft** of their speech by **the END of MARCH** and a **second draft by the END of APRIL**.
 4. **The final copy must be submitted by May 31, 2024.**
 5. The Valedictorian will remain at the Sanderson Centre after the rehearsal on **June 26, 2024** to practice the speech.
- **Remember that your speech will be published in the yearbook. Be certain that you have not plagiarised.**

If you fail to meet these deadlines or expectations, you will be replaced by the runner up for Valedictorian honour.

VALEDICTORIAN APPLICATION FORM

Name: _____

Date: _____

Email: _____

- **Parts A & B** of this application must be submitted to Mr. MacKinlay in Student Services no later than **December 8, 2023**.
- **Part C** – the essay (only to be completed by successful nominees) is due **January 12, 2024 by 3:00pm** to Mr. MacKinlay in Student Services. Failure to meet the deadline will negate your submission.

PART A: Academics

1. Number of credits earned to date: _____

2. Approximate average earned over the last four years: _____

3. Overall average from first semester (= or > 80%): _____

Above verified by _____ (Guidance Counsellor)

An overall average of 80% **MUST** be maintained through to the midterm of Semester 2.
This will be verified by Mr. MacKinlay at Progress Report time and at Midterm.

PART B: Writing and Speaking Ability

1. I can attest to this student's writing and oral ability.

Verified by _____ (Classroom Teacher)

PART C: Typed 300 Word Essay (The essay will be used as criteria for selecting candidates)

1. Respond to "Why I believe that I am a worthy candidate and meet the criteria for valedictorian" in a 300-word typed, polished and formal submission. Be sure to refer to the Catholic Graduate Expectations (found on the Board Website) in your response. ****YOU MUST INCLUDE YOUR WORD COUNT AND ADHERE TO THE 300 WORD LIMIT****