

VALEDICTORIAN APPLICATION FORM

Name: _____

Date: _____

Email: _____

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 Mrs. Camilleri and Mrs. Ronson 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****

This application and the essay must be submitted to Mrs. Camilleri in Student Services no later than **February 8, 2019 by 3:00 pm**. Failure to meet the deadline will negate your submission.

VALEDICTORIAN INFORMATION

Valedictorian application forms are available as part of the “Leaving the Nest” graduation package. The completed form and essay must be submitted to Mrs. Camilleri in the Student Services office by **February 8, 2019 at 3:00 pm**. 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, 2019**.
- * Must have maintained a consistent, serious attitude towards their studies.
- * Must have maintained an average of 80% or higher during Semester 1, and continue through to midterm of Semester 2.
- * 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. Candidate must complete the Valedictorian Application Form and submit the required essay by **February 8, 2019** to Mrs. Camilleri 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 on:
 - 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.
 - d) **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 a 1 minute, 20 second presentation on morning announcements over SJC TV: **February 11**, process overview, **Feb. 12- Feb. 18**, candidates on announcements, one per morning in alphabetical order.
5. A hard copy of each candidate's essay will be posted in the Main Office for reference.
6. **Solicitation for votes by the candidates by use of print or ANY social media will NOT BE PERMITTED.**
7. A Valedictorian ballot will be created naming each of the selected candidates in alphabetical order.
8. Graduation candidates, who have paid to participate in the graduation ceremony, are eligible voters.
9. Ballots will be completed during Period 2, on **Monday February 25, 2019**.

10. The valedictorian will be announced on SJC TV no later than **March 8, 2019**.

Terms of the 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 to address guests: Clergy members, Distinguished guests, Trustees, Senior Administration, Staff, Graduates, Family and Friends.
2. The valedictorian **MUST** work with a staff advisor, Mr. Don Locey, 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 24, 2019.**
5. The valedictorian will remain at the Sanderson Centre after the rehearsal on **June 26** to practice the speech.

**Remember that your speech will be given to the Expositor and published in the year book.
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.