

SVRSS Graduation Newsletter - February 24, 2026

Class Size: 150

First Grad Parent Meeting

Tuesday, February 24, 2026 @7:00pm in the Cultural Arts Centre

Diploma Name

Attached you will find a grad list. Be sure that your full name is on it and spelled correctly as this is how it will be recorded on your diploma, which is a legal document.

Transcript Requests

Please ensure all transcript requests are sent directly to the SVRSS main office. There are two ways to complete your request:

1. Stop at the office and pick up a green "Transcript Request" form (included in this package). Fill it in with the address you need the transcript sent and drop it off with Mrs. Rowe in the office.
2. Send an email to svrsstranscript@svsd.ca and include the address you want it sent too. We will send it in the mail or email it depending on your request.

You will also need to request a "Final Transcript" to be sent to your institution following graduation, please ensure this is done using one of the two options listed above.

Grad Fees

There is a \$50 fee for all students participating in the convocation ceremony. This year grad fees can be submitted online through KEV, or by cash in the office. This fee will be accepted in the office or online from the beginning of March until May 15th, 2026. <https://svsd.schoolcashonline.com/Fee/Details/855/221/False/True>

This fee covers your diploma photo and helps to cover the cost of ticket/program paper, decorations, and group composite photo.

All other outstanding school fees, textbooks and devices must be reconciled with the SVRSS.

Grad Ceremony Committee

Students who sign up for and attend regular grad ceremony meetings will make decisions regarding valedictorian, guest speaker, ushers, theme, song, decorations, program, etc. If you want to take part in these decisions, you need to volunteer for the committee.

The first ceremony graduation meeting will be announced on the Grade 12 Teams. Please plan to attend.

Gown Information

The grad gowns are blue in color with a white V-stole and a tassel. The stole is a rental and must be returned in excellent condition. All students will be responsible for taking care of the gown and ensuring that each gown is returned in its original condition. Students may not smoke, eat, or drink anything except water while wearing the grad gown.

Gowns are handed out following grad rehearsal – and are collected following the ceremony. Any personal photos in the gown will need to be taken prior to the ceremony.

Grad Gown Sizing

All potential graduates will need to be sized for a gown. Sizing will take place in the second week of March. All grads will come to Student Services to be fitted for their grad gown size. Oversized or full-fit gowns are also available. The student should indicate at the time of height sizing if a full-fitted gown is preferable.

Listen for announcements and watch Teams for details about gown sizing.

Wearing the Gown

Students wear the gown over top of their clothing, so please ensure that you have appropriate clothing underneath with dress shoes; no shorts are permitted. There is a bit of walking involved in the ceremony, so comfortable shoes are important.

Formal Wear

We have many new and/or gently used grad dresses and suits. These are available at no cost to grads that need formal wear. If you would like to make an appointment to see if there is something suitable, please contact Mrs. J. Zamzow, Mrs. A. Bruce or Ms. Barabash.

Grad Cap

Each student is given a grad cap and souvenir tassel that is theirs to keep. The cap is a "one size fits all" and may either be worn or carried close to the chest as students choose. Most students wear the cap, as it is a symbol of accomplishment. Please bring bobby pins to secure the cap from slipping.

Tickets

Grad tickets will be distributed in the first week of June by Mrs. Petelski in the Resource Centre. All outstanding school fees and grad fees must be paid before tickets are distributed.

Special Seating for Grad Ceremony

Special seating will be made available for disabled and elderly family members who find it uncomfortable to sit in the bleachers. If you have special seating needs, please see Mrs. Petelski in the Resource Center and she will take your requests at the time of ticket distribution in the first week of June. You can also contact her via email at cpetelski@svsd.ca.

Grad Banquet (optional event)

The banquet is a buffet supper held at the Swan River Curling Rink beginning at 7:30 pm; this is an optional activity. Grads must include themselves when determining the number of tickets needed. Grads may purchase as many tickets as necessary and may request the following: seating preferences (near another grad), special seating (wheelchairs, walkers, etc.), and gluten-free meals. Seating is assigned; therefore, the tickets CANNOT be transferred between grads. Price per ticket to be determined once the menu is finalized.

Safe Grad (this is an optional event)

Safe Grad is a committee of parents who plan the Safe Grad event for the graduates and their guests the night of graduation. This committee works in conjunction with Grad Banquet. There are 12 different committees that are chaired by parents. These committees, along with an SVRSS staff member (Mrs. Glen), plan the activities and procedures for the evening. The various committees include Chairperson(s), Decorating, Facility, Clean-up, Entertainment, Prizes, Fundraising, Security, Food for Safe Grad, Bar, Transportation, and Medical Personnel. Committee formation occurs at the **grad** parent meeting.

Photography

There will be a group grad photo taken prior to the ceremony starting. Each student will also be photographed on stage as they receive their diploma. Those who receive scholarships or bursaries will also be photographed for the yearbook. A second photographer will be hired to take casual photos throughout the graduation events.

Grad Photos by Photovisions

Grad photos are scheduled for March 9-12. Students must sign-up online using the QR code on the website <https://www.svsd.ca/svrss/grad-picture-sign-up.8730>. A session fee of \$40 paid directly to the photographer at time of photo by cash, credit card or cheque. Graduates will receive an 11x14 composite as part of their sitting fee. Grad photo retakes are tentatively scheduled for the spring. For those students who do not wish to get a full package, a portrait is still required for the yearbook and grad composite. There is no charge for this photo.



2026 SVRSS Grad Video Info The ceremony will be live-streamed for those who cannot attend in person. \$10 from each graduate's fundraising pays for a link online where the edited video can be streamed or downloaded for no additional cost. It will include video of the whole class picture taking, preparations, grad slideshow, the entire ceremony, and the Grand March at the banquet. Scan the QR codes for examples of two previous grad videos on YouTube. DVDs or BluRays can be purchased for an additional \$20 (or \$25 for a set of both). Or better yet, get a USB stick with all the video for just \$10. A video order form will be in the next newsletter. Contact Kevin Penner at 204-281-0419 or kcpenner@gmail.com



Yearbook

The yearbook committee would once again like to include a toddler photo and grad quote on the grad photo page. Please submit this as soon as possible. Quotes and photos can be emailed to yearbook@svsd.ca.

Grad Slide Show - optional

Photos for slide show to be handed into Mrs. Petelski in the Resource Center or emailed directly to cpetelski@svsd.ca. All students are asked to submit one baby picture and one recent picture. This needs to be submitted starting March 3rd. Those who do not submit photos will only have their grad picture in the slide show. These will be incorporated in the Grad DVD. This is a graduate project. If no grads volunteer to do this work, there will not be a grad slide show at the ceremony.

Local Bursaries and Scholarships

The Swan Valley Community sponsors approximately 60 different bursaries and scholarships. Application forms are available from the Learning Support Centre. Applications for local awards are available in mid-April. All applications are due by Thursday, May 15, 2025.

Grad Funds

Grad Fundraising typically helps to cover expenses related to Ceremony, Banquet, Banners, and Safe Grad.

Grad Fundraisers to Date:

Carry over from 2025=\$2000.00

December Fundraiser= \$7000.00

February Fundraiser=TBD

Other Fundraising/Donations

Total Current Funds=\$9000.00

Safe Grad/Banquet Parent Meeting

The first meeting will be scheduled in March 24th, 2026.

Important Dates to Remember

Ceremony Rehearsal: Thursday, June 18, 2026

Grad Photo Prior to Ceremony: June 19, 2026 @ 2:15pm

Grad Ceremony: Friday, June 19, 2026, at 3:00 p.m.

****All Grad related information (policies, newsletters, etc.) can be found on our website.**

www.svsd.ca/svrss/page/459/graduation-information