‘Leaving the Nest’:

Graduation Information

GRADUATION NEWSLETTER #1
September 2026

Dear 2027 Graduates,

The date of this year's graduation (rehearsal and ceremony) is **Monday, June 28, 2027**. *This year is a unique year where we will be holding BOTH the **grad rehearsal AND** the **grad ceremony on the same day.** More information will be shared throughout the school year but please mark this date in your calendars!

There will be an abundance of grad information shared over the course of the school year. *It is your responsibility to stay informed.* All grad info can be found under Grad 2027 on the St. John's College website. Please check in on a regular basis and please share with your parents so they too can be informed. In addition to this,, grad information may be shared over morning announcements, the SJC Instagram account '**sjcgradinformation2027'**, phone or email Synervoices, the SJC student calendar or by checking in with your Guidance Counsellor.

Only students who have earned a diploma by June 25, 2027 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 (two e-learning courses). Participating graduates must also have submitted their grad application form & fee through School Cash Online by the October 31st deadline.

GRADUATION PHOTOS:
Grads are responsible for booking their own grad photos. In order to be eligible to sit for your grad photo you must be on track to graduate for June 2027, complete the online grad application and pay the appropriate grad fee. **Students are expected to only book a photo time after they have paid their grad fee & submitted their grad application.** 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.

The process for potential graduates to book their grad photo through *Pegasus* will be shared a few days after the Leaving the Nest assembly (Sept. 23). ***It is important that students know their OEN# at the time of booking. OEN numbers are found on any of their report cards or status sheet.*** Students are asked to **NOT** book multiple appointments. If a change must be made then students must go to their original booking confirmation email where they will find a link to change their appointment.

You are not obligated to order any of these pictures. Photo retakes and missed appointments will have to be arranged by the student through Pegasus' online booking system. The graduation photos will be taken at St. John's College at the back of Student Services between: **JANUARY 5-19, 2027. More details will be shared throughout the school year.** **Note: when booking, Pegasus only opens up a few days at a time.*

GRAD NEWSLETTER #1 CONTINUED…

VALEDICTORIAN NOMINATIONS:
Valedictorian nomination packages will be available for pick up in Student Services from Mr. MacKinlay in December. He will make an announcement when they are available. The completed package **must be submitted to Mr. MacKinlay by JANUARY 8, 2027 by 3pm.** If no nominations are forth coming the Principal may choose to ask a student to assume the honour. If there are more than five nominations the Graduation Awards selection committee will choose five candidates based on the information in the package and a vote will be taken.

GRADUATION FEES:
Graduation entails a great deal of planning and therefore we need your cooperation. Graduation gowns & stoles, programs, diploma folders and composites must be ordered. Your graduation fee will be due and must be paid online through School Cash Online by **October 31, 2026.** If you are unable to pay through School Cash then please call the main office to inquire about payment.

There are *four options* for the Grad Fee:



Option 1: **$100** – full participation in the graduation ceremony at the Sanderson Centre; sitting fee for Pegasus to take grad photo

Option 2: **$70** – graduate only wishes to participate in the ceremony; no grad photo will be taken and only their name will appear at the bottom of the grad composite

Option 3: **$30** – graduate wishes to only have their grad photo taken; they are not participating the graduation ceremony at the Sanderson Centre

Option 4: **$0** – graduate is not participating in the graduation ceremony at the Sanderson Centre and does not want a grad photo taken so only their name will appear at the bottom of the grad composite

Regardless of which option you select on School Cash online ALL POTENTIAL GRADUATES must complete and submit the online Grad Application by the October 31, 2026 deadline. Both student and parent signatures will be required to complete the online application.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT IF YOU ARE UNSURE ABOUT PARTICIPATING IN THE FULL CEREMONY AT THE SANDERSON THAT YOU PAY THE FEE TO DO SO BY THE OCTOBER 31ST DEADLINE AND IF YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND YOUR PARENT/GUARDIAN CAN REQUEST A $70 REFUND BY THE MAY 3RD 2027 DEADLINE. YOU WILL **NOT** BE ABLE TO CHOOSE TO PARTICIPATE AT A LATER DATE AS THE PLANNING AND ORDERING OF MATERIALS FOR PARTICIPATING GRADUATES HAS ALREADY TAKEN PLACE. ***If you have any questions please speak to your guidance counsellor prior to October 31, 2026.***

- Prom tickets and the Grad Retreat are ***not*** included in the grad fee.
- If you do not graduate you will receive a refund, however if you choose not to participate fees will not be refunded after **May 3, 2027**

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 Assembly #1	October 20, 2026 **Period 1**
Graduation Application & Graduation Fee **DUE** via School Cash Online	October 31, 2026
Valedictorian Nomination Package Submitted to Mr. MacKinlay	January 8, 2027 **by 3pm**
Graduation Photos	January 5-19, 2027
40 Hours Community Service completed for Graduation	January 31, 2027 **by 3:00pm**
Graduation Photo Retakes	February 22-24, 2027
Valedictorian Vote ***online vote**	March 3, 2027 **begins at noon and is open for 24hrs**
Completed Applications for SJC Bursaries/Awards due to Student Services	March 31, 2027 **by 3:00pm**
Prom Ticket Sales	April 26 – April 30, 2027
Grad Retreat	April 23, 2027 ***tentative date**
Honour J/Eagle Applications Due	April 30, 2027 **by 3pm**
Graduation Fee Refund Deadline	May 3, 2027
Graduation Prom	May 28, 2027 ***tentative**
Graduation Assembly #2	June 2, 2027 **Period 1**
Graduation Rehearsal at Sanderson Centre ***attendance is mandatory**	June 28, 2027 **9:00 – 12:00am**
Graduation Ceremony at Sanderson Centre	June 28, 2027 **@7pm**

AWARD INFORMATION & APPLICATIONS

SJC AWARDS, BURSARIES AND SCHOLARSHIPS:

Online applications for these specific awards will be available on the St. John's College website ***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: **March 31, 2027**

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:

- Complete a minimum of **six** courses and be recognized as a full-time student in Gr. 12 (September – June mandatory six courses)
- 80% minimum average calculated using all courses taken in the Gr. 12 school year including summer school courses 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
- 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

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.