



William Aberhart High School

Graduation 2026

Wednesday, May 20

NOTES: The events described in this booklet are the only Graduation events sanctioned by William Aberhart High School. There will be no alcohol served.

Although it is graduation, all students are still held to the same expectations and standards outlined in the [Student Code of Conduct \(https://williamaberhart-cbe.cmcdesign.imagineeverything.com/conduct\)](https://williamaberhart-cbe.cmcdesign.imagineeverything.com/conduct). Any individuals who violate these policies will be asked to leave the ceremony and/or the evening reception.

GRADUATION CEREMONY

When: Wednesday, May 20, 8:45 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Where: Grey Eagle Resort and Casino - Event Centre

GUESTS: DON'T FORGET YOUR ORANGE CEREMONY TICKETS!

Tickets & Parking:

- **Tickets for all guests are required to attend the Graduation Ceremony.** These are the **ORANGE** Ceremony tickets. **Graduates do not require tickets;** their grad gown is their ticket to enter the hall.
- Parking is free. Guests need to park in the Event Centre parking or Event Centre overflow parking **ONLY**. Guests do not have access to the Casino parking directly in front of the Casino. **This year, parking is very limited due to construction. Please consider carpooling.**
- Outdoor security/flaggers will be onsite directing traffic.

Starting Time:

- The doors to the Grey Eagle Event Centre will open at **8:00 a.m. for all graduates.** Use the **left** door to enter.
- The doors to the Grey Eagle Event Centre will open at **8:05 a.m. for all parents and guests.** Guests will use the **right doors** to enter. Parents and guests must show their **orange** ceremony ticket to get in.
- The Ceremony will start at **8:45 a.m.**

Programs:

- A PDF copy of the program was sent **by email** to all graduates and their families in advance and posted **on D2L**. (last week) Please tell your guests that they need to download the program on their personal electronic device or print it themselves. There will **NOT** be any printed program available at the ceremony for the guests.
- Each graduate will receive an official souvenir paper copy of the program when they exit the stage.

Seating:

- The venue holds 2400 seats, and every seat is full. Due to these space limitations, only guests with tickets will be admitted.
- Seating for guests is on a first come, first served basis. Please do not leave empty seats between families and guests. Ushers will be asking you to move over to fill in the empty seats.

Getting Ready for the Processional:

- Graduation ceremonies are formal events, and students are expected to conduct themselves with respect and decorum throughout.
- Any decorating/alterations of the grad cap or gown **are not permitted** prior to the ceremony as all participants are expected to uphold the dignity and seriousness of the occasion.

PLAN TO BE THERE NO LATER THAN 8:00 a.m.

PLEASE DO NOT FORGET YOUR GOWN AND CAP!

- Arrive early enough to park and be in the Graduate Area in the Event Centre. **Ask your parents and guests not to enter the hall until 8:05 a.m.**
- Go to the Graduate Area in the main concourse where ABE staff will be handing out your name cards and getting you lined up alphabetically. Follow the signs and directions from staff.
- We suggest that you **gently iron your grad gown** at home the day before the event.
- Please note that grad gowns are warm, and it is recommended that you dress lightly (but appropriately) underneath.
- This is a semi-formal affair. Suggested grad attire:
 - A white blouse or a shirt and tie shows best under the gown, with dress pants. Wear pants, or short to medium-length skirts/dresses. If you are wearing a shirt and tie, do NOT wear a jacket, as you may get too warm.
- Wear appropriate footwear that is practical and comfortable. Bare feet, flip flops, slippers are not permitted.
- Gowns do not have pockets for cell phones or purses, etc. Leave purses, coats, and other valuables with family or friends since there will be no secure place in the line-up area to leave them during the ceremony.
- Please do not chew gum.
- For those of you wondering about the tassel on the grad cap, the tassel should be on the right side. After crossing the stage and receiving your diploma booklet, you can move the tassel from right to left.

Line-up Location:

- As soon as you get to the Event Centre, report to the graduate area of the hall.
- Teachers will be helping you get in alphabetical order.
- Parents are not permitted in the graduate area.
- The hallways will be labelled with the letters of the alphabet. Find the first letter of your last name.
- A teacher standing there will give you a numbered index card, your name card. **Hang on to this card.**
- **LINE UP IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER** and **STAY THAT WAY** to follow the order of the program and to aid the photographer taking your picture as you walk across the stage.

Processional:

- Your name card, which was given to you as you lined up, is to be presented to an Assistant Principal reading the names (students Specialized Settings Classes & A – K by Mr. MacCarl, followed by students L – Z by Ms. Vryenhoek) as you walk across the stage. Do not misplace your name card!
- Once the procession starts moving, please remain in line and in silence. **TEACHERS WILL SHOW YOU TO YOUR ROW, BUT DO NOT SIT DOWN. EVERYONE WILL REMAIN STANDING FOR THE SINGING OF “O’ CANADA”. YOU WILL BE TOLD WHEN TO BE SEATED.**
- A teacher will signal to you when it is your time for your row to stand up, and then, proceed to the stage. There are two groups, students in specialized settings classes and students with last names A to K, followed by the students with last names L to Z.
- Following the directions of the teachers, you will proceed to the marshalling area to the left of the stage. You will be given instructions about when to proceed up to the stage and present your name card as your turn comes. You will walk down to the front of the stage to Mr. Sagriotis, who will present you with your **Grad Folder**, and greet you. As you are standing beside him, look towards the photographer and smile!
- **The folder will be empty.** One side is for your photo (which you will receive at an alternate date in school), and the other is for your personalized insert that you will pick up when you leave the stage.
- You will keep walking towards the other members of the platform party and greet them as well.
- You will continue your journey across the stage and go down the stairs opposite the ones you came up.
- At the bottom of the stairs, you need to stop at the tables where teachers will give you 2 or 3 items:
 1. Grad Program (official souvenir paper copy of the grad program)
 2. Grad Insert (personalized Aberhart High School Certificate with your name on it)
 3. French Immersion certificate or letter (only for French Immersion students)
- The Marshals will direct you back to your seats. Follow their instructions.

Behavior Expectations & Photography:

- During the ceremony, avoid any comments or cheering that would embarrass the Graduates or their family. Applause is most appropriate at the end of the section. Please do not throw confetti or other items. Please share this information with your family members and guests attending the ceremony.
- We are asking your parents and guests **not to come to the front or to come down to the main floor of the hall to take photos.**
- During the ceremony, one professional photo will be taken of you while standing beside Mr. Sagriotis on stage.
- All students will receive their 5x7 “Handshake with the Principal” photo at school at the end of May. Any other questions regarding photography should be directed to Lifetouch. (Operations center at 403-255-5440)
- Students are expected **to stay seated until the end of the ceremony.** Be respectful of your peers and do not leave the hall before the end. You also want to listen to the valedictorian speech, which is at the end of the ceremony!
- If your guests want to use the washrooms during the ceremony, please tell them to use the main doors located at the back of the hall. Please do not use the ones on the side of the hall, as it interferes with the pathway used by the graduates to get from their seats to the stage and off the stage to their seats.

Recessional:

- At the end of the program, after Ms. Brunelle has given brief closing remarks, it will be time for the Recessional. We will follow the same process as when we came in, except in reverse. The platform party will lead from the stage, followed by the teachers, followed by the students, beginning at the front. Please remain seated until your row is told to stand and proceed.
- The Recessional will lead you back through the Concourse and outside through the North Doors of the Event Centre into the **North Parking Lot**, where you can take pictures and socialize. **All graduating students and spectators should exit the building through the north doors and around the building to the back of the Event Centre to gather.** All remaining guests that require assistance may exit through the front doors and meet graduands at the back of the building (East side).
- The Event Centre must be cleared immediately following the ceremony. Please do not stop or gather in the hallways. Guests are welcome to socialize once they have exited through the North doors.

This is a special day for you, so make it special for others too! Enjoy the Ceremony!

RECEPTION & DANCE

When: Wednesday, May 20, 6:30 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.

Where: Grey Eagle Resort and Casino - Event Centre

DON'T FORGET YOUR WHITE GRAD RECEPTION TICKETS!

Getting to the Reception:

- Make sure you have your WHITE tickets to attend the Graduation Reception & Dance. ALL guests require a white ticket to enter the Reception hall.
- Parking is free. Follow the instructions of the parking attendants. There is a drop off area in front of the building for limos.

Reception Information:

- The doors to the Event Centre will open at 6:30 p.m. for all guests.
- There will be a short program with speeches starting at 6:50 p.m. **Please be in your seats by this time.**
- The seating is assigned. Please sit at the correct tables.
- The dinner will be served after the program. The dinner is a buffet style; please follow the instructions of the MC's for when your table is called up. Guests who requested a **special dietary meal** should have received a separate PINK card outlining their dietary requirements. Please remember to bring your pink card to the dinner, as it must be presented to the chef.
- Dance the night away with "Split Circuit Sound DJ" once the program has concluded. Please plan to stay for the dance. There will be tea, coffee, and soft drinks available all evening.
- The Reception & Dance is a school function and the same guidelines apply as if the event was being held in the school. You are responsible for the conduct of your guests who are not Aberhart students.
- Smoking/vaping is not permitted in the reception area.

Enjoy your special evening and have a safe Grad!