

**George McDougall**

**High School**

**GRADUATION  
HANDBOOK**



**CLASS OF 2020**

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# Welcome

## From the Principal...

Welcome to Graduation 2020!

It is a pleasure to be able to lead you into Convocation and celebrate this considerable milestone in your life. Along your journey as high school students, I trust that you have learned the power of continually asking questions to learn about yourselves and about your world. Practice seeing the world with wonder and keep approaching others with caring and openness.

Keep asking yourself the tough questions and reflecting on your actions. Be curious about how things work and what is needed for you to reach the next level of mastery in your chosen passion. All along, keep asking how you can keep engaged and have fun in all that you do whether in your studies, jobs, or personal lives.

Explore all the possible outcomes and make productive choices. Choose to be, do, and know your personal best this graduating year. Be your own brilliant. Do what you need to do to serve yourself and serve others well. Have quality lives by reaching for all of your possibilities. Thrive and do not just survive; carry that attitude into your promising lives as adults.

Take pride in that you are becoming a Mustang Grad. On behalf of the talented staff at GMHS, we wish you an amazing year and incredible memories of the celebrations of Grad 2020. Get involved and make this class the best ever to leave our school walls. Can't wait to see you on the stage for Cap and Gown!

Ms. Johnston

Principal

## **Teacher Advisors for Inquiries**

General Graduation Coordinator

Liese Reichert                      948-5935 X5126                      lreichert@rockyview.ab.ca

## **Academic Requirements**

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## **Administrator**

Gladys Brown                      948-5935 X5120                      gbrown@rockyview.ab.ca  
  
General Inquiries                      948-5935 X5108                      myellowega@rockyview.ab.ca  
Monique Yellowega  
  
Ceremony Wait List                      948-5935 X5104                      rharris@rockyview.ab.ca  
Roberta Harris

## Lines of Communication

There are many ways to access the information that you require. Please check out the following:

- Refer to this handbook for information regarding general graduation requirements. An electronic copy is on our website.
- Timely information may be distributed through Synervice. This service will leave a detailed message regarding grad on your home phone and send an email if you have provided one to the school.
- Students – Google Classroom & email

If you are unable to find the information you need via these avenues, please contact the appropriate staff advisor.

## **Important Dates (Subject to Change)**

**Oct. 1, 2019**

Grad Info Night GMHS – 6:30 pm main gym

**Oct. 1 & 2, 2019**

Grad picture appointments (11:30 am – 1:00 pm, in the rotunda)

**Oct. 29, 2019** (students only @ FLT)

Meeting about grad fair

(collecting information), main speaker, Parent toast, Teacher toast to grad, grad toast to teacher. Graduation speakers selection

**Nov. 5/6, 2019**

Grad Fair Day

Info collecting, baby pics, gown sizing

**Nov. 18, 19 & 20, 2019**

Grad photos by appointment (Cafeteria)

**Feb. 1, 2020**

Grad fees paid in full - \$85.00

**Feb. 7, 2020**

Last day to submit Ceremony Opt-out form

**Mar. 9, 2020**

Eligibility Checklist due

**Mar. 30, 2020**

Valedictorian Applications will be available

**Apr. 3, 2020**

Valedictorian Applications are due.

**Apr. 6, 2020**

Valedictorian Selection Meeting

**Round 1 (Banquet Tickets - \$85.00 each)**

**Apr. 22 – (opens @ 10:00am) – Apr. 24 (closes @ 2:00)**

On-line ticket purchases/seats (open with 6).

**Round 2 (Banquet Tickets - \$85.00 each)**

**Apr. 28 – (opens @ 10:00 am) – Apr. 30 (closes @ 3:30 pm)**

On-line ticket purchases

**May 15, 2020**

Valedictorian Address Admin.

**May 19, 2020**

Ceremony ticket purchases open (will open with 8 tickets per family)

\$5.00 per ticket – Graduate does not need one

## **Graduation Rehearsal:**

Date: Friday, May 29, 2020

Rehearsal Time: 10:30 – 12 noon

Where: Genesis Place, Shane Field  
800 East Lake Blvd NE, Airdrie, AB T4A 2K9

## **Student Expectations:**

It is **mandatory** for all graduates to attend the ceremony rehearsal. The ceremony is an exciting but also stressful occasion so it is important that the graduates practice what is required of them on that day.



## **Graduation Ceremony:**

Date: Friday, May 29, 2020  
Doors Open: 3:45 pm  
Ceremony: 4:30 – 6:30 pm  
Where: Genesis Place, Shane Field  
800 East Lake Blvd NE, Airdrie, AB T4A 2K9

## **Tickets:**

Price: \$5.00 per ticket. (8 tickets per family to start)

**Graduate does not need a ticket.**

## **Student Expectations:**

**Arrival:** Students are expected to arrive at Genesis by **no later than 3:15 pm**, to pick up their hat, tassel and gown.

## **Suggested Dress:**

All students are expected to wear business attire.

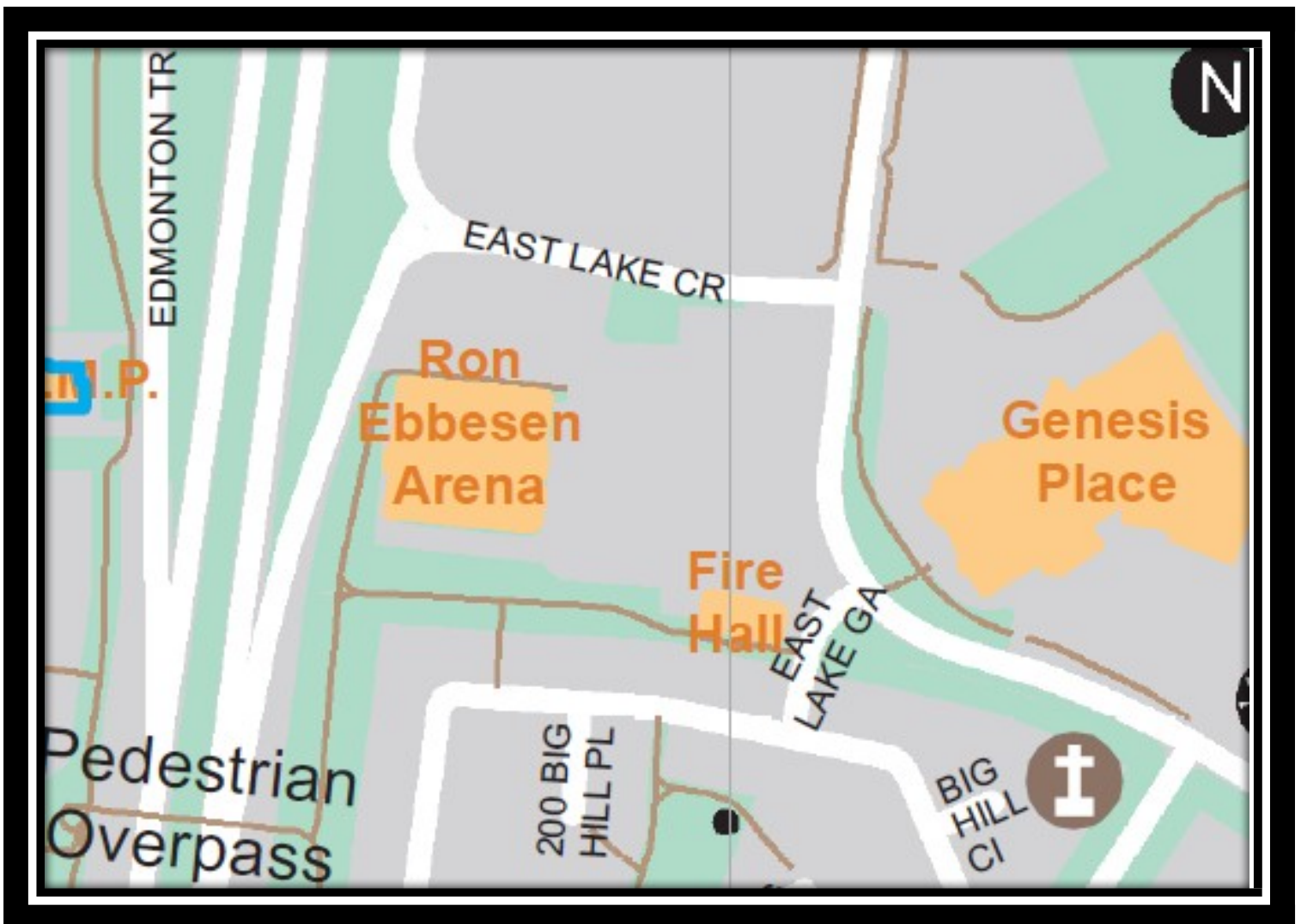
## **Photographer:**

A professional photographer from Platinum Photographers will be at the ceremony to capture the special moment as your graduate is presented their high school certificate from Principal Johnston. This is complimentary. As this presentation will be professionally captured, we ask that all parents and family remain seated and refrain from taking their own photos at this time. This will help to ensure optimal lighting and timing for this family keepsake.

## Graduation Ceremony cont'd:

### Parking:

Parking is available at Genesis Place, at the Grace Baptist Church, and at Ron Ebbesen Arenas.



## **Graduation Banquet:**

Date: Saturday, May 30, 2020  
Doors Open: 5:00 pm  
Grand March: 5:30 pm  
Dinner: 6:00 pm  
Where: Commonwealth Centre  
#1177 - 3961 52 Ave. NE  
Calgary, AB

## **Tickets:**

Price: \$85.00 each  
Limit: 6 to start, additional TBD

## **Student Expectations:**

*This event has tables of 9, so when ordering tickets please keep in mind that you will be asked to organize your groups within that configuration.*

**Arrival:** Students are expected to arrive at the event site no later than 4:45 pm

**Dress:** Formal attire please.

## Graduates in “Good Standing” Requirements

In the spring of 2020 (usually in late March and definitely before tickets go on sale), we will be doing a check on each graduates’ eligibility to participate in graduation events. All graduates **must** be in “good standing” to be able to purchase tickets for the ceremony or banquet. The following outlines why a student may not be in “good standing” and therefore would **MAY NOT** be eligible to purchase their graduation tickets.

- School Fees
  - *School fees must be paid in full to participate in the events.*
  - *Please see Mrs. Smiley to pay school fees.*
- Attendance
  - *Your child is required to attend school. Students are expected to attend regularly and punctually.*
- Credits
  - *Your child is at risk or will not meet the credit requirements for an Alberta High School Diploma by June of 2020*
  - *Please see guidance with any concerns regarding transcripts.*
- Course standards
  - *Your child is currently failing a course in which he/she is registered.*
  - *Please see the teacher of the course in which he/she is failing.*
- Overdue Books
  - *Books (textbooks or library) have not been returned.*
  - *Please see Mrs. Johnson, our librarian, to return books.*
- Removed from Extra-curricular activities
  - *Your child is serving an **RVS suspension** during the event dates.*
  - *Please see Ms. Brown to discuss the reinstatement process.*

It is your son or daughter’s **responsibility** to remedy the above situation(s) before graduation tickets may be purchased.

Please take this form to the person responsible (stated above) so they can approve the update. **Completed forms need to be returned to Mrs. Smiley in the Main Office so the hold on school cash to purchase tickets may be removed.**

*\*Eligibility will be re-evaluated again after term 3 and throughout the remainder of the school year, so that current semester classes are considered in maintaining good standing status.*

Should you have any questions or concerns, please call Liese Reichert, grad coordinator, at the school 403-948-5935 or email [lreichert@rockyview.ab.ca](mailto:lreichert@rockyview.ab.ca).

## **Class Valedictorian**

- All graduates (grade 12 students) will have the opportunity to apply for this year's class valedictorian.
- The application sheet indicates the criteria any successful candidates would require for GMHS Class valedictorian. They are:
  1. Candidates must have been on honour roll for their grade 11 and 12 with no mark below 80% throughout grades 11, 12.
  2. Candidates must be an active member in our school activities (extra-curricular programs: sports, intramurals, music programs, etc.) and/or involved in the Airdrie community.
  3. Candidates must possess and demonstrate a strong positive attitude during school and after school.
  4. Candidates must have exemplary behaviour for the last two school years.
- Application forms can be picked up from the main office on Monday, March 30.
- No forms will be accepted after Friday, April 3. They should be returned to the main office.
- Should you have any questions or concerns, please talk to Mrs. Reichert.

### **Dates:**

- March 30, 2020 - Valedictorian applications will be available
- April 3, 2020 - Valedictorian applications are due
- April 6, 2020 - Valedictorian presentations
- May 15, 2020 - Valedictorian Address Admin. Review

## **Graduation Ticket Sales**

We are very excited to be partnering with Right Labs and will be using their online ticket purchasing and seat selection tool 'InviteRight.'

**Link for tickets:** <https://mcdougall.inviteright.com/grad2020>

**Price:** \$85.00

### **Tentative Purchase/Seat Selection Dates:**

**Round 1** (Max 6 tickets)

**System Opens** – April 22, 2020, 10:00 am

**System Closes** – April 24, 2020, 2:00 pm

**Round 2**

**System Opens** – April 28, 2020, 10:00 am

**System Closes** – April 30, 2020, 3:30 pm

\*\*\*Students must meet all eligibility requirements before tickets will be available to purchase.

## **Opt-out Form**

Form available at the main office – this form will allow graduates to tell the graduation committee that they do not want to participate in one or both of the graduation events.

Once the form is submitted, the graduate's name will be removed from further communications regarding the actual events. Please note: this does not mean the graduate will not graduate in 2020 but rather will not participate in the graduation celebrations.