



RICHMOND SECONDARY SCHOOL - CLASS OF 2026

CLASS VALEDICTORIAN:

Traditionally at the Valedictory Ceremony, a student gives the farewell address on behalf of the graduating class. The Valedictorian reflects upon a theme relevant to his/her classmates and shares parting words of wisdom. The successful candidate will be chosen based upon the following criteria identified by RHS graduates. The student:

- must be a strong academic student
- should be one of the top well-rounded students in the Graduating Class
- is to have good public speaking skills
- is to be representative of the school as shown by participation in a wide range of school activities
- should be able to relate with a wide range of students in the Graduating Class
- should be reflective, thoughtful and able to look to the future
- will have attended Richmond Secondary for at least 2 years

Any student who is interested in representing the graduating class of 2026 in this manner is asked to submit an application to the Principal by **3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 31, 2026** using the Class Valedictorian form. In a maximum of 250 **TYPE WRITTEN** words, write why you think you are a good candidate for Class Valedictorian. Please include contact information such as email and telephone number on your application. In addition to the application form, interested students must upload a video. The video must be no longer than two minutes; please introduce yourself in 30 seconds and for the remainder of the video deliver a one-minute portion of your speech.

CLASS HISTORIAN(S):

NOTE: This role may or may not be filled in any given year depending on the strength and rationale behind individual applications.

The Class Historian(s) reflects upon the memories or history of the graduating class throughout the years from grades 8-12. The successful candidate(s) will be chosen based upon the following criteria identified by the RHS graduates. The student(s):

- is to have good public speaking skills
- should be able to balance a nostalgic review of the past five years with appropriate wit & humour
- should be connected to a broad base of students and be able to relate to the majority of the class
- should have been involved in a wide range of school activities including athletics, clubs, and service
- should have a well-rounded perspective on the happenings at the school
- should be at least an average/above average academic student
- will have attended Richmond Secondary since Grade 8

Any student who is interested in representing the graduating class of 2026 in this manner is asked to submit an application to the Principal by **3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 31, 2026** using the Class Historian form. Please include contact information such as email and telephone number on your application. In a maximum of 250 **TYPE WRITTEN** words, write why you think you are a good candidate for Class Historian. In addition to the application form, interested students must upload a video. The video must be no longer than two minutes; please introduce yourself in 30 seconds and for the remainder of the video deliver a one-minute portion of your speech.

Please note: You are encouraged to apply to ONE OR BOTH positions but you must submit separate applications to each position. Applicants will be interviewed for positions for which they submit a sample speech. Note, the selection committee reserves the right to consider applicants for a position that they may not have applied for.

Selection of the Valedictorian and Historian will be made according to the process and timeline found on the back side of this form.

SELECTION TIMELINE

March 1 Information Sheets will be made available at the school office and on MS Teams. Interested students will complete statements of interest and submit them to the Principal by **3:00pm on Tuesday, March 31, 2026**.

April 1 Ballot available (published with the names of interested candidates posted online).

April 2 - April 7 Opportunity for Grade 12 students to **vote** for Valedictorian and Historian. Voting will take place from **Thursday, April 2 to Tuesday, April 7, 2026**. A link to vote will be posted on Grade 12 MS Teams. Vote results, application responses, and interviews will be considered in the selection process.

April 7 - 10 Interview dates and times given to list of candidates. Interview questions will be given to all candidates. Candidates are asked to prepare a small segment of their speech and all their responses to the interview questions.

April 13 – 23 Interviewing of candidates by staff committee.

April 27 Notification of successful and unsuccessful candidates.

April 28 – May 20 Preparation of speeches.

May 21 Submission of final speeches to staff committee and **email to Principal**.

May 22 – June 5 Rehearsal, revision, and practice of speeches with Staff.

June 5 - 10 Speeches finalized with final rehearsal with Administration.

June 9 Valedictory Rehearsal at 1:15pm for Graduating Class 2026. Additional Valedictorian and Historian Rehearsal after school.

June 13 2026 RHS Valedictory at UBC Chan Centre. Arrive inside the Chan Centre Auditorium for 11:15am Sound Check.