

GRAD 2026 – APPLICATION FOR CLASS VALEDICTORIAN

The Graduating Class Valedictorian(s) is/are selected by a panel of students, teachers, and administrators as judges. The graduation committee has decided on the following quote by Jane Goodall to guide the speeches:

What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.

This year the process and timeline will be as follows:

February 11

- ✓ Class Valedictorian Information Sheet is available in the Grad 2026 D2L Shell and on the school website

February 18

- ✓ Important meeting for all interested applicants at lunch in Room 102

February 25

- ✓ Application documents due
- ✓ Email **one PDF document** to Mr. Cancilla (rwcancilla@cbe.ab.ca) that includes:
 - Introductory questions (listed below)
 - Valedictorian speech in written format
 - Your name and page number at the top of your application
- ✓ *Late entries will not be considered.

March 4

- ✓ Candidates will **audition** after school. Please arrive at room 102 promptly at 3:35 p.m.
- ✓ To maintain the integrity of the panel and process, all students are required to audition on March 4th

Candidates Must:

- ✓ Be a member of the graduating class
- ✓ Have an overall average of 80% or higher
- ✓ Be comfortable speaking to a large audience
- ✓ Demonstrate citizenship and contribution to the school and community

In your application, please provide a response to the following introductory questions:

- ✓ List your involvement in and outside of the school focusing on the academic and extracurricular roles you have established over your three years at Henry Wise Wood. This includes committee work, sports teams, clubs, community service, academic accomplishments and notable challenges
- ✓ Why do you want to be class valedictorian?
- ✓ Why do you believe you will be an effective and successful valedictorian?

Please attend the meeting on **February 18** at lunch in Room 102. Questions and expectations of the valedictorian speech and competition details will be clarified. Good luck to everyone deserving and interested!

The following rubric will be used to assess your speech:

Content
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The idea(s)/topic(s) within the speech is/are interesting, engaging and thoughtful• The organization of the speech captures and holds our attention and brings a sense of appropriate closure• The speech considers and appeals to the entire audience
Presentation
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There is effective engagement (eye contact, expression, voice projection) with the audience and confident fluency in the delivery of the speech