

## Valedictorian

Potential candidates who are interested in valedictorian must have Honour Roll status and be in good behavioural standing. All candidates should enjoy public speaking, as their responsibilities lie in bringing the grad class together through community and personal achievements. They should also be interested in not just talking about how life has been to this point, but also adding perspective in guiding everyone to critically think about their future after high school. I always tell them they need to make the audience laugh and cry through the power of words.

## Process

Students interested in being a valedictorian should indicate their interest to a teacher that they trust to nominate them for the valedictorian process. Teachers will put forward students who have expressed an interest in being a valedictorian as well. Students must have Honour Roll status and are in good behavioural standing. Once those students are put forward, a committee of teachers will evaluate all the candidates to ensure that they meet the criteria. All candidates will then meet with Mr. Hyde, Mr. Purdy and Mr. Barrington to ensure that they are aware of the expectations of being selected as the valedictorian and salutarian. Students will then commit to either proceeding or not the next day after the meeting. If they do not check-in then it will be assumed that they are not interested in being valedictorian.

If a student expresses interest in being a valedictorian, then the students will create a profile that highlights their 4 or 5 best achievements at Riverside Secondary. At a staff meeting, teachers will then rank the candidates based on the profiles shown. Only the top 6, based on teacher's ranking will be able to create a persuasive video that will be shown in RAP. An alternative option for the potential candidate is for them to perform live in front of their peers. This would have to be on a specific day and not conflict with the regular schedule.

Students will vote on their valedictorian and salutarian. Every two weeks, the two will check in with Mr. Barrington, Mr. Hyde and Mr. Purdy who will mentor them in terms of crafting their speech.

This will all start in April and conclude in May.