



March 2, 2026

Dear Parent,

Graduation will soon be here! Please read this letter, record the dates, and complete/return the required items.

**Noteworthy Dates:**

- **Graduation Pictures (Group and Individual) – Friday, April 10 ~ 9:45 am**
- **Graduation Cards due to school office – Friday, May 1 (they will be taken to Washington, DC)**
- **Graduation Checklist form (on website) due – Friday, May 15**
- **Graduation Dinner – Thursday, May 28, 6 pm or as announced (RSVP Due May 15)**
- **Graduation Liturgy – Friday, May 29, 6:30 pm (time is firm)**

**Picture Day:** Empire Photography will take graduation photos on April 10 about 9:45 a.m. in church. They will take individual pictures of each student as well as a group photo. No forms or payment are required in advance. When selecting graduation clothing, please remember that attire must be modest. The class picture and the graduation liturgy will take place in church. Girls typically wear dresses, but it is not required. If you're having trouble finding something with an appropriate neckline and or style of sleeve, add a scarf or sweater. Boys do not need to wear suits, but most wear a shirt and tie.

**Graduation Video** Most classes have a video of pictures taken throughout the school years that is shown at the Graduation Dinner. This is **not** something that the school coordinates but we help collect pictures in the office if a parent takes on the task.

**Educational Experience Reflection and Graduation Cards:** Students will reflect on their school experiences during their trip to Washington, DC. During a special reflection, students will be given cards/letters from their parents commemorating the milestone of graduation and thoughts about the future. Students have about five minutes to read these. Please send in a letter or card for your child by **Friday, May 1**, marked with his/her name and Class of 2025, so that I may pack them for our trip.

- These letters are intended to be from **very close family (parents, step parents, potentially siblings or grandparents)**. Our hope is that each child will receive 1 but no more than 5 cards or letters to read during their reflection. If more than 5 are dropped off at the office, they will be returned to the family.

- Cards from neighbors and friends should be saved for their graduation party as I don't want to carry too many to DC (!) and they won't have time to read more than a few anyway.

**Projects/ Fees:** Fees/tuition balances must be paid before graduation. Students must also complete all school projects and achieve passing grades to receive a diploma. Contact the teachers or me if you are concerned about your child's graduation status.

**Records Transfer:** Please list your child's high school on the checklist linked below. If you are not yet certain where your child will attend high school, please give us an idea of when your decision will be finalized.

**Graduation Dinner:** The student/parent/teacher dinner will take place on Thursday, May 28. Dinner is typically about \$25 per person. We want all students and a parent or parents, or step-parents to attend, if possible. Contact us if the fee is a hardship. The dinner is usually at 6 pm but the time may be moved slightly earlier or later.

**Graduation Rehearsal and "Clap Out":** Students will have their final rehearsal for graduation on the morning of May 29. We are counting on the students to be helpful and cooperative during this time. Students will be dismissed when the rehearsal is successfully completed, and lockers and desks are cleaned. Typically, we have a "clap out" where younger students and many 8th grade parents gather to cheer the 8th graders on as they exit the school for the last time as students. This usually takes place about 11:30 am, but we reserve the right to postpone the clap-out based on how rehearsal is progressing that morning.

**Graduation Liturgy:** Our graduation liturgy will take place on Friday, May 29, at 6:30 p.m. in the church.

Graduation from 8th grade is an important step in your child's educational journey. We are very proud of the Class of 2026!

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

***Mr. C.***

Steve Castrogiovanni, Principal

cc: teachers and staff

## **Blessed Sacrament School Graduation Action Steps**

1. **Send in a Graduation Card or letter by May 1:** Students will reflect on their BSS experience during their trip to Washington, D.C. Part of their reflection will

include reading cards/letters/notes from their parents (and maybe siblings or grandparents). Wondering what to say in a card or letter? We suggest including a memory or two from the student's early years, expressing your pride in their efforts and accomplishments, and perhaps writing some thoughts/dreams/hopes for coming years. Please send in cards to the office, labeled with your child's name and "Class of 2025" written on the envelope, no later than May 1.

2. **Complete Graduation Checklist online by May 15:** Please use this link to provide us with information on how you want your student's name in the graduation program, etc., high school registration and records release, the graduation dinner and graduation liturgy. <https://www.school.blsacramento.org/graduation>
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