

## COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

### Policy

Commencement exercises are sponsored by the Canaan School District to honor the academic achievement of those students who have successfully completed the graduation requirements of Canaan Memorial High School. As such, it is the policy of the Board to regulate all aspects of the commencement exercises to ensure that the exercises reflect the importance the Board and the community place on this achievement.

### Student Participation

1. Participation in commencement is a privilege not a right granted to qualifying students.
2. Student participation is limited to only those students who have met the graduation requirements of Canaan Memorial High School by the date of the commencement ceremony.
3. Students must be in good standing with the school to participate. Students may not participate if they are under suspension, expulsion or other restrictive discipline measures imposed by school administrators in accordance with District policies and procedures.
4. Students must wear the designated cap, gown and tassel. Other than Valedictorian, Salutatorian, Career and Technical Education (CTE) Completer or National Honor Society, only two additional Principal approved adornments may be worn.
5. The Principal will develop a rehearsal schedule for commencement exercises to ensure participating students are adequately prepared for the ceremony. Participating students are required to attend all scheduled rehearsals unless excused by the Principal.
6. Students may be removed from participation in commencement exercises by the Principal:
  - a. if they engage in any behavior that is disruptive to the event;
  - b. for failing to follow these guidelines; or
  - c. for violating the rules for student conduct as described by Board policy and the Parent/Student Handbook.

### Presentation of Awards

1. Only those awards that have been previously approved by the Board may be presented during commencement.
2. Awards will be approved based on, but not limited to, the following criteria:
  - a. the ability of the award to be sustained over time;
  - b. the inclusion of a clear objective with a focus on academic achievement; and the extent to which the award supports the purpose of the commencement exercises as established by this policy.

The Board reserves the right to reject any award it feels does not support the purpose of the commencement exercises as established by this policy.

4. Military recruiters may make an award presentation during commencement to acknowledge student enlistment in the armed services. Military recruiters will not use commencement as a forum to promote the armed services or to recruit other students.

### **Valedictorian and Salutatorian**

1. The Valedictorian is the student with the highest overall weighted GPA in the graduating class.
2. The Salutatorian is the student with the second highest weighted GPA in the graduating class.
3. To be eligible for Valedictorian or Salutatorian, a student must complete both his or her Senior and Junior years at Canaan Memorial High School. A student who transfers to Canaan Memorial High School during or after his or her Junior year will not be eligible for Valedictorian or Salutatorian.
4. Any student who has been suspended from school two or more times during their last two years of attending Canaan Schools shall not be eligible for Valedictorian or Salutatorian honors.

Date Warned: 04/20/2021  
Date Adopted: 05/10/2021  
Amendment Warned: 03/13/2019  
Amendment Adopted: 04/15/2019  
Legal Reference(s): 16VSA§1161a (discipline)  
16 VSA § 1162 (suspension and expulsion)  
Cross Reference(s): Student Conduct and Discipline (F1)  
Alcohol and Drug Abuse (F7)  
Weapons (F2 1)