

How is the calendar year of Matura different from other years of Ridna Shkola?

The Last Bell – (3/31/07) – This is the last official day of classes for the graduating class. Near the end of the school day, the lower grades form an honor guard in the main hallway and the graduating class, along with the Director and teachers march through. Parents are encouraged to attend and photographs are welcome.

Matura Examinations – (written 4/21 and 4/28/07, oral 5/5/07)- The examinations which constitute Matura take place over three Saturdays. Written examinations are administered on the first two Saturdays and the oral examination on the last Saturday. The students are dressed in embroidered shirts / blouses. The Parents' Committee organizes food and refreshments for the graduating class and their teachers. Note: If your child has an important and unavoidable conflict on the days scheduled for Matura, you must notify Dr. Kosci as soon as possible. Dr. Kosci is the contact person for the Matura. While there is an SAT test scheduled on 5/5/07, the SAT is administered many times (see <http://collegeboard.com/student/testing/sat/calenfees.html>) and so a conflict with Matura is avoidable

Vypusknyj Vechir – (a date in May or June 2007) – This is a dinner program organized by the Parents' Committee to honor our graduates. Teachers, parents and family members are invited. The graduates attend dressed in embroidered blouses / shirts. The Director, the teachers and the graduates if they so wish, offer a few words. Vypusknyj Vechir is much less formal and more intimate than the Graduation Dance.

Graduation Dance (Maturalna Zabava) – (11/24/07) – This is the Graduation Dinner and Dance at which our graduates are presented to the community. Girls from the graduating class are dressed in long white dresses accented/decorated with Ukrainian embroidery. The boys wear embroidered shirts with a dark suit or a tuxedo. Each graduate is accompanied by an escort of their choosing, also dressed formally. During the presentation, a brief (45 seconds) summary of the student's current achievements and future goals is read, both in Ukrainian and then in English. Parents will be asked to supply this information to the Program Chair. Parents will also be helping with the decorating of the hall and will be asked to bring a tray of sandwiches, which will be sold later in the evening.

Embroidered blouses / shirts – Our graduates are required to wear embroidered blouses / shirts for most of the special activities associated with Matura. If your daughter / son does not have an embroidered blouse / shirt, please notify me as soon as possible.

Responsibilities of the Parents of the Graduating Class

All parents are members of the Parents' Committee. They elect the following:

Chair

- i) runs Parents' Committee Meetings
- ii) notifies Parents (by telephone, e-mail or regular mail) of upcoming events, meetings
- iii) is the contact person for events surrounding Matura (The Director, Dr. Kosc is the contact person for Matura itself)
- iv) coordinates events
- v) makes a speech at the Vypusknyj Vechir as well as at the Maturalna Zabava

Tutoring Chair

To assist our students with the academic preparation for Matura, the Tutoring Chair approaches each teacher individually to arrange tutoring / review sessions. The venue, time and date are coordinated to accommodate the schedules of as many teacher and students as possible. If these tutoring / review sessions are to be held on the premises of Normandy High School on a regular Saturday, the Tutoring Chair must provide the request with dates and times to the Administrator as soon as possible. The Administrator will then make the necessary arrangements with the Parma Board of Education.

Treasurer

Collects money for gifts for graduates and teachers, for graduation dinner and for any other expenses the Parents decide on. Usually, once the sum of money per family for all expenses is determined, the family is asked to provide a single check.

Tableau Chair

This individual determines the layout, design and theme (if any) for the tableau, purchases the required materials and makes the tableau. The tableau should be sturdy and sufficiently formal for display at the Cleveland Self-Reliance Credit Union for the first year, and at the Ukrainian Museum Archives thereafter.

Tableau Chair and/or Associate

The individual arranges for and ensures that all graduates have their photographs taken. This involves identifying a photographer and providing him/her with the exact photo format and instructions as to how the students should be posed. At the completion of the photos, this individual collects the completed photos from the photographer, removes those photos that will be used for the tableau and gives the rest to those parents who ordered additional photos.

Comment: The graduates should be dressed in embroidered blouse / shirts. If the portraits are posed well, the tableau comes out very well too. Over the last several years, the JC Penney at Parmatown Mall has offered good service at very reasonable prices, if the Parents Committee provided clear instructions.

Matura Hospitality Chair

This individual arranges for any food, drink, paper goods etc for the three Saturdays of Matura. Light, healthy food is usually popular. Most chairs organize a sign up list to which all parents contribute. The quantities required depend on the number of graduates.

Gifts Chair

This person referees the discussion at the parents' meeting as to the type and cost of gift for graduates and teachers. Gifts have ranged from Ukrainian CD's to framed photographs of the class. The treasurer collects the money and disburses it to the Gifts Chair who buys the gifts.

Graduation Dinner (Vypusknyj Vechir) Chair

While a Chair is needed, the responsibilities are best divided among several people. Duties are:

- i) selecting a date, identifying a venue and reserving it
- ii) organizing the decoration of the hall, making seating arrangements
- iii) designing and printing the invitations (Cleveland Self-Reliance Credit Union has usually agreed to cover printing costs), and sending the invitations to teachers, clergy and others who are to be invited
- iv) organizing the program for the evening

Maturalna Zabava Committee

This requires involvement all the parents. The tasks to be performed include

- i) collect biographies from students in English and Ukrainian, edit and compile them so that the length of each biography (total in both languages) is less than 2 minutes.
- ii) recruit one male and one female reader for the biographies (reader must be a previous graduate from Ridna Shkola who is also a sibling of a current graduate)
- iii) arrange the formal program and organize a rehearsal on the Friday evening before the zabava. (Attendance for graduates and escorts is mandatory)
- iv) organize parents to decorate the hall for zabava (usually minimal) and collect decorations at the end of zabava.
- v) arrange for a photographer for the zabava if so desired