

How is the year of Matura different from other years?

The Last Bell – (3/29/14) – 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 on both sides of the main hallway. Our youngest children join hands with graduating students, and along with the Director and teachers march in procession. Parents are encouraged to attend. There is ample opportunity to take photographs.

Matura Examinations – (written 4/12/14 and 4/26/14, oral 5/3/14). On the designated Saturdays, the examinations start at 9:00AM and finish 1:00-2:00PM. The dates and format of the examinations are established by Shkilna Rada (<http://www.ridnashkola.org/kincispyt.htm>). Students are to be dressed in embroidered shirts / blouses. The Parents' Committee organizes food and refreshments for the graduating class and their teachers.

If your child has an important and unavoidable conflict on the days when Matura examinations are scheduled, you must notify the director as soon as possible. Some of our students will be taking the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) during this school year. There is a SAT session scheduled for 5/4/13, which is the same Saturday as our oral Matura examinations. Since the SAT is offered at several times throughout the year, planning will help avoid conflicts.

Vypuskunii Vechir – (a date in May or June 2014) – This is a dinner program organized by the Parents' Committee to honor the graduates. Teachers, parents and family members are invited. The graduates attend dressed in embroidered blouses / shirts. Brief greetings are offered by the head of our Examination Commission (Mr. Tvardovsky) and depending on the wishes of the Parents' Committee any or all of the following may as well: director, home room teacher, head of Uprava, head of the Parent's Committee. The graduates receive their diplomas. Vypuskunii Vechir is much less formal and more intimate than the Graduation Dance.

Graduation Dance (Maturalna Zabava) – (11/29/14) – This is a gala event at which our graduates are presented to the community. The program also includes formal greetings, a dinner and a dance. 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 summary both in Ukrainian and then in English (one minute per graduate, 15 sec per escort) of the student's current activities, achievements and future goals is read. Parents will be asked to supply this information to the Program Chair. Parents are also responsible for decorating the hall. Parents are also asked to bring a tray of sandwiches and either prepare or buy pastries, which will be sold in the later hours of the evening.

Embroidered shirts / blouses – Embroidered shirts / blouses must be worn for all the above activities. If a student does not have one, please let us know 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) calls together and runs Parents' Committee Meetings
- ii) notifies Parents (by telephone, e-mail or regular mail) of meetings, transmits information
- iii) is the contact person for events surrounding Matura (the school director is the contact person for the Matura examinations themselves)
- iv) coordinates events
- v) makes a brief speech at Vypusknyj Vechir as well as during Maturalna Zabava

Tutoring Chair - Each teacher holds one review session of the material required for the Matura examinations. The Tutoring Chair arranges the date and venue of the sessions. If the review sessions are to be held on the premises of St. Josaphat's School outside the normal hours when the school is in session, the Tutoring Chair must inform the School Administrator (Pani Parc) in a timely fashion. The Administrator will then check to see whether the necessary arrangements can be made.

Treasurer – Maintains an account, receives and releases funds for matura-related expenditures (\$50 administrative fee, refreshments during examinations, tableau, Vypusknyj Vechir, gifts, etc.). The Parents' Committee collectively authorizes all the expenditures other than the administrative fee. Depending on the Committee's decision, the treasurer may issue funds in advance to the various chairs or reimburse them upon receiving receipts. By 1/17/14 the treasurer should give the school administrator a check for the sum of \$50 per graduate, written out to "Ridna Shkola".

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

Tableau Chair and/or Associate - The individual arranges for and ensures that all graduates have their photographs taken on time. He / she identifies a photographer and provides precise instructions as to the photo dimensions and the desired pose. The chair collects the photos from the photographer, selects those photos that will be used for the tableau and gives the rest to those parents who ordered additional photos.

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. For the photographic sessions, the students should wear embroidered shirts / blouses.

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 Chair also ensures that on each of the examination days the main table in the examination rooms is covered with a tablecloth and that there is a vase with flowers.

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.

Graduation Dinner (Vypusknj Vechir) Chair

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

- i) ensure that the Committee selects a date and a venue in a timely fashion
- ii) reserve the hall and request the menu
- iii) organize the decoration of the hall, make seating arrangements
- iv) design / print and send the invitations to family, teachers and others
- v) organize the formal part of the program

Maturalna Zabava Committee

The date / location / orchestra / price of tickets are determined by the School Board. The responsibilities of the Chair of the Maturalna Zabava Committee are:

- 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 no longer than one minute per graduate, 15 sec per escort
- ii) recruit one male and one female to read the biographies (reader is a previous graduate from Ridna Shkola. Traditionally, siblings of current graduates are invited.)
- iii) organize the formal program
- iv) organize a rehearsal of the formal program on the Friday evening before the zabava. (attendance for graduates and escorts is mandatory)
- v) organize parents to decorate the hall for zabava (usually minimal) and collect decorations at the end of zabava.
- vi) arrange for a photographer for the zabava if the Parents' Committee so desires. In some years parents requested a photographer and in some years they did not.