

**SELECTION PROCESS**  
**FOR THE COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER**  
**NOTRE DAME-CATHEDRAL LATIN SCHOOL CLASS OF 2021**

The student speaker at commencement will be chosen through an audition process. This sheet describes in detail the process that will be followed.

1. Any member of the Class of 2021 who is eligible to participate in the commencement ceremony may participate in the audition process.
2. Students who wish to enter the audition process need to submit a typed, double-spaced speech that addresses the following prompt:

*Transform* is the key word in the Mission Statement  
of Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin School.

This word invites several important questions:

- *Transform from what?*
- *Transform to what?*
- *Transform for what or for whom?*
- *Transform in what way?*

3. In responding to this prompt, students should reflect upon the high school experiences of the members of the Class of 2021 as well as their hopes, dreams, and aspirations *in light of one or more of the core values of NDCL.*
4. They may also consider these lines from the NDCL Vision Statement:  
*We will focus on loving, respecting, and educating all to discover and develop their God-given talents.*  
*We will challenge our students to respond faithfully to Jesus' call to transform the world by consciously doing good and bringing hope to the hearts of all.*
5. The finished speech, when read aloud, should take between seven (7) and ten (10) minutes to deliver.
6. Because the written speeches will be evaluated anonymously by the selection committee, **the student should NOT place his/her name on the document or identify himself/herself by name or in any obvious way in the body of the speech.**

7. The student should print his/her name on an envelope into which the speech should be placed. This envelope must be given to Mrs. Hurt by **12:00 PM on Friday, May 7**. Mrs. Hurt will assign a number to the speech and record the identity of the author. The author's identity will not be shared with the selection committee until they have chosen the semi-finalists.
8. The selection committee will select approximately three (3) semi-finalists, who will be notified on Monday, May 10.
9. Semi-finalists will present their speeches orally on Thursday, May 13, at 3:00 PM.
10. The committee will announce the name of the commencement speaker on **Friday, May 14**.
11. A professional videographer will record the commencement address on **Thursday, May 20**.
12. Here are two resources that may help students as they craft their speeches:

<https://tvpcommunications.com/what-makes-a-good-commencement-speech-from-someone-who-has-seen-a-lot-of-them/>

<https://www.inc.com/jackelyn-ho/i-studied-this-years-commencement-speeches-this-is-what-made-good-ones-stand-out.html>

**SELECTION PROCESS**  
**FOR THE BACCALAUREATE SPEAKER**  
**NOTRE DAME-CATHEDRAL LATIN SCHOOL CLASS OF 2021**

The student speaker at our Baccalaureate Mass will be chosen through an audition process. This sheet describes in detail the process that will be followed.

1. Any member of the Class of 2021 who is eligible for graduation may participate in the audition process.
2. Students who wish to enter the audition process need to submit a typed, double-spaced speech that addresses the following prompt:

**NDCL Alma Mater**

*The **memories** of our high school days bring **joy** for years to come.  
The **faith** and **friendship** that we **share** will always make us **one**.  
In **Mary's spirit**, we will wear with **pride** our gold and blue.  
Hail, Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin School, we'll be **true** to you.*

In what ways do the key words of our alma mater describe the journey and experiences of the Class of 2021? And how do these words inspire the graduates as they prepare to leave NDCL to go forth to transform the world, as Jesus did, by living the truth in love?

3. The finished speech, when read aloud, should take between five (5) and seven (7) minutes to deliver.
4. Because the written speeches will be evaluated anonymously by the selection committee, **the student should NOT place his/her name on the document or identify himself/herself by name or in any obvious way in the body of the speech.**
5. The student should print his/her name on an envelope into which the speech should be placed. This envelope must be given to Mrs. Hurt by **12:00 PM on Friday, May 7.** Mrs. Hurt will assign a number to the speech and record the identity of the author. The author's identity will not be shared with the selection committee until they have chosen the semi-finalists.
6. The selection committee will select approximately three (3) semi-finalists, who will be notified on Monday, May 10.

7. Semi-finalists will present their speeches orally on Thursday, May 13, at 3:00 PM.
8. The committee will announce the name of the Baccalaureate speaker on **Friday, May 14.**
9. The speaker will address the Class of 2021 and their families prior to the Baccalaureate Mass on May 19.
10. While these two resources were written about commencement speeches, the advice they contain also applies to Baccalaureate addresses:

<https://tvpcommunications.com/what-makes-a-good-commencement-speech-from-someone-who-has-seen-a-lot-of-them/>

<https://www.inc.com/jackelyn-ho/i-studied-this-years-commencement-speeches-this-is-what-made-good-ones-stand-out.html>