

Early Graduation...or not: A Big Decision

Juniors: As the registration process begins, several juniors may realize that they need only 3 or 4 more credits in order to graduate. Each year a few seniors decide to complete their education and leave Bradford at the end of January to move on to the next stage of their lives.

Who might want to graduate early?

- A student who is planning to go directly into the world of work
- A student who has "had it" with high school life
- A student who is moving to another part of the country
- In some instances, a student who wants to start college early

Who will want to graduate in June?

- A student who needs more than 4 credits
- A student in AP classes, music, auto apprenticeship or co-op programs, sports, theater
- A student who wants to get into a prestigious college
- A student who wants to experience ALL of her/his time at high school
- A student who takes free college classes through the YOP program

Early Graduation is a decision that comes after much thought, not something to be decided quickly or casually or because a friend is doing it.

Things to consider

- Early grads may participate in the regular June graduation. There is no graduation ceremony in January.
- Early grads are **NOT** allowed to participate in sports or student activities, other than those open to the public.
- **College admission officers tell us that they want to see a full schedule of classes for the senior year.** College bound students considering early graduation are encouraged to check with specific colleges for further recommendations.

- While an early grad may think that they will save up money for college by having a full time job during the second semester, it doesn't usually work out that way. These earnings are included in the financial aid package worked out with colleges and the student may receive less financial aid. A student in this situation may realize that the funds earned seemed to disappear in the financial aid package.

Early Graduation is an option for only a small number of seniors. If a student is interested, the option is one to be discussed carefully and completely with parents and counselors.

Early Graduation Application/Procedures