

Quaker Valley High School

2019 Commencement Speakers & Poet Laureate

We will select several honored speakers and one Poet Laureate to participate in the June 10th graduation ceremony. Students must have at least a 2.75 cumulative GPA to be eligible for consideration.

Speech and Poem Submission Timeline

- **Thursday, March 28th** – Speeches and Poems must be submitted electronically to Mrs. Riccobelli at riccobellid@qvsd.org by **4:00 PM**. Please use your QV school email for submission. Late submissions will NOT be accepted or considered.
- **First two weeks of April 2019** – Auditions will be held for graduation speakers and the Poet Laureate. All candidates will be notified of their assigned audition date and time via school email.
- Commencement Speakers and the Poet Laureate will be announced within a week of the completion of auditions.

Speech Criteria

- Commencement speeches should be between 4-5 minutes in length.
- The appropriateness of the speeches' content will be the ultimate decision of the interview panel and their determinations will be final.
- While the specific speech topic is up to the author, the overall content should relate in some way to education, be appropriate for the entire QV community and for sending off the class of 2019.
- Applicants will be judged on originality, overall organization, quality and effectiveness, and delivery. Please see the scoring rubric for specific scoring criteria. Final scores will remain confidential and will not be shared with students or parents.
- Students must submit their speeches on time. The deadline is firm.

Poem/Poet Laureate Criteria

- Commencement poems must be original - created specifically for Commencement 2019 - and cannot have been previously published and/or used for any other purpose (e.g. class work, Bittersweet, poetry competition, etc.)
- Poems should be between 2 -4 minutes in length when read aloud for performance purposes.
- The appropriateness of the poem's content will be the ultimate decision of the interview panel and their determinations will be final.
- While the specific topic of the poem is up to the author, the overall content should relate in some way to education.
- Applicants will be judged on content, originality, creativity, delivery/performance aspect, and grammatical/mechanical correctness. Please see the scoring rubric for specific scoring criteria. Final scores will remain confidential and will not be shared with students or parents.
- Students must submit their poems on time. The deadline is firm.