



May 13, 2020

Good afternoon grade 12 students and Parents/ Guardians,

I am writing to you today with information on how and when we will honour your graduation. We recognize many of you have seen and discussed the letters sent by other schools and apologize for any angst created while waiting for our second letter on the topic of your graduation. Our approach was to wait for the most recent provincial updates (presented last week) before speaking with your Grad Council and finalizing our plans. Our rationale for waiting:

1. No one was certain what new information was to be presented to the province prior to Premier Horgan's announcement on May 6th.
2. The district had issued a graduation letter to families on April 29th reflecting the guidelines we as schools were to collectively follow. However, it was slightly amended a week later to allow principals to consider bringing students to the school for photographs and / or video opportunities. We wanted to be certain there were no further district adjustments before proceeding with our school's planning.
3. We feel it is best to provide as much information as possible in one letter, rather than sending a series of messages for you to collate. Page 2 has a timeline of events.

We know that nothing can replace the loss of so many expected events and activities in your final semester in high school. While so much is being shared about Commencement, we also talk often of what other experiences you have missed. Like being the senior players on our teams, performing one last time at the year-end concerts, attending the annual Spring Fling, sitting together on a sunny day in June, and of course Dinner / Dance. We also think about the uncertainty you face in the coming months as you prepare for work, school, moving cities, moving countries, commuting...the list of questions about simply navigating the logistics of what's next is quite lengthy.

Ultimately, we hope you are well and healthy, and remain that way. In speaking with some of the grad class, I very much admire your collective outlook, thoughtfulness, and adaptability. How you have responded to what you have gone through, and how you are already addressing the challenges to come, is both inspiring to our current community and a legacy to future grad classes.

Sincerely,

Mr. Conley

Commencement 2020: June 20th @ 11am

A prerecorded online presentation will be made available at 11am on the 20th of June.
Details and Dates leading up to the 20th are highlighted below.

May 15 th	Valedictorian applications due
May 25 th	Valedictorian candidate videos due
May 29 th	Valedictorian online voting made available to grade 12 students
June 1 st	Refunding of Dinner / Dance tickets (\$120.00) and Cap & Gown (\$40.00) will commence. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online payments will be reimbursed online. • Cash or cheque payments will be reimbursed by cheque and issued during Cap and Gown pick up. • Allow some time for online processing. • Please email 088-Office@sd43.bc.ca if you have questions
June 2 nd	Valedictorian announced
June 8 th	After Grad prize winners announced
June 10 th , 11 th , 12 th	Cap and Gown pick up <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location: outside by the front entrance walkway • Scheduled blocks will be created by homeroom. Students then assigned within their homeroom block. • IB Pins, Honour cords, and other applicable program and personal certificates / letters (where applicable) will be issued. • Program of the grad class with acknowledgement of scholarship recipients will be distributed. • After Grad prizes distributed. • Locker items will be made available. • Textbooks, library books or other school items returned
June 16 th , 17 th , 18 th	Photo Opportunity (Optional) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A "Cross the Stage" photo area will be set up in the small gym • Photographer from Artona will be present. • Photos taken are personal and separate from what will be posted on June 20th • Attire is cap and gown • Times will be individually assigned to interested students (up to 2 parents also in attendance). • Please click the link here to register your interest and we will create a schedule.
June 20 th	Commencement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online presentation available for viewing @ 11am • Please email Ms. Starr if you do not want your photo included in the publicly viewable format.