



Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020

## Recognition of Grade 12 Students

Dear Grade 12 students and families,

I hope you are all well and thank you for your patience regarding plans for celebrating our grade 12 students graduation.

We know that this has been a difficult time for grade 12 students and their families. The anticipation, planning, and excitement about graduation, and all the associated celebrations and gatherings are significant events in students' lives. With the Provincial Health Officer (PHO) indicating that large gatherings will not be permitted through the summer, the Red Carpet, the Grad Dinner/Dance, and the Valedictory Ceremony as we know them, will not take place.

All of the high schools in Delta, along with senior management, have considered numerous safe alternatives to recognize the achievements of our grade 12 students. We have landed on hiring a professional company called GradsBC ( <https://gradsbc.com/> ) to capture the graduation moments on video and combine them with commencement speeches, celebration, photographs and other highlights for each school. The plan will honor our grade 12 students in a way that will allow them to wear their cap and gown, walk across the stage, have their moment in the spotlight and have several photos taken as they experience the event. There will be opportunities for our students to have photographs taken with their formal attire, if they so choose. Our virtual grad will be released within weeks of the filming. This will allow Grads to share their grad moments with family, friends, teachers and their classmates. We recognize that our plan is different from the past graduation experiences, but we believe that this will honour our students in a meaningful and safe way.

In preparation of this event, we require our grade 12 students to submit their Commencement comment that will be read as they cross the stage. The comment is usually a way to thank those who supported you during your public education career, your plans after high school or fond memories. These comments should be no more than 40 words in length. Graduates will need to submit their comment in the link below:

<https://forms.gle/vF5FtDe2AUTuUNjd6>

Please submit your comments by Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>. We expect to have specific details to pass on about filming, times, locations, and much more in the near future.

## **Scholarships**

Ms. Gehiere has been emailing grade 12 students and providing information about scholarships. The deadline for application is Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup>. Please make sure you get your applications into Ms. Gehiere as soon as possible to be eligible. There is a great deal of money available for our Grads and there is something for everyone. Please connect with Ms. Gehiere if you have any questions at [jgehiere@deltasd.bc.ca](mailto:jgehiere@deltasd.bc.ca).

## **Valedictorian**

Each year, we have a process to identify a student to provide the Valedictorian address to the grad class at the Commencement Ceremony. In the coming weeks I will share with you the process for nominations, preview of speeches and then voting. If this is something that interests you please start to gather your thoughts about what you would say about your friends, fellow grads, experiences at Seaquam and comments about the future. I would also recommend reaching out to a staff member who could mentor you through this process. More details to follow.

Thank you for your patience and understanding during these extraordinary times. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Rick Mesich  
Principal

Ian Close  
Vice Principal

Vlad Nikic  
Vice Principal