

April 30, 2021

Dear Sands Grads and families,

We received the following message on Friday, April 23rd from Fraser Health regarding guidelines for conducting Graduation celebrations. Fraser Health states:

In consultation with the MOE, BCCDC and the Office of the Provincial Health Officer, Regional health Authorities are jointly providing the following graduation planning guidance:

- Graduation ceremonies are a “learning activity”. Therefore, guided by the Provincial COVID-19 Healthy and Safety Guidelines for K-12 Settings.
- Ceremonies held outside rather than inside are preferred.
- At this time, no persons may be present as a spectator, unless the presence of the person is necessary in order to provide care for the participant. Staff are able to attend to provide supervision but must maintain a physical distance.
- Dances, dinners or associated dry-grad events are not permitted at this time. They are events and fall under the Gathering and Events Order.

From a school and planning perspective, these guidelines help us plan moving forward. Unfortunately, these guidelines do not allow us to invite parents/guardians to participate in this event. Again, we all hoped we could do more for the Grads and families, but we feel that the Grads BC production event, as we experienced last year, provides an opportunity for graduating students to celebrate and be recognized for their accomplishments in their public education careers.

Sands’ Grads BC event will be on Sunday, June 6 at North Delta Secondary starting at 11am. The production event will be similar to last year where it will incorporate the following experiences for our graduating students:

- Indoor red carpet walk and a photograph in their formal/semi-formal attire
- Virtual commencement that includes the crossing of the stage, a photo with their leaving certificate, having their graduation comment read and scholarships awarded
- Hat toss station and photograph to commemorate their graduation
- Professional family portrait outside by Artona (we are still seeking approval of this portion of the event)

There will be a premiere on June 25 for students, families and friends to gather in a safe way and watch the livestream and celebrate their students’ graduation.

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

Sincerely,

Mark Robinson,

Principal

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