



NEW WESTMINSTER SECONDARY SCHOOL

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May 20, 2021

UPDATED INFO

Dear Grade 12 parents and students,

As we continue working on creating a meaningful celebration to commemorate the NWSS Class of 2021, we would like to provide you with some updated information. Due to the impact of Covid-19 this year's school leaving ceremony will once again be a hybrid event consisting of both in-person and virtual components.

In keeping with the guidelines from the Provincial Health Office (re: social distancing and gathering), our hybrid school leaving ceremony event will involve: (a) a virtual ceremony that will include recorded speeches, performances, and other graduate contributions; and (b) an opportunity for small groups of Grade 12 students to be filmed walking across the stage and receiving their school leaving certificates. In addition, graduates will have two photos taken (by Artona photographers), after they have crossed the stage.

Below is a general overview and **updated** timeline to keep you informed:

April 20: MS Teams Grade 12 parent and student information session (6:00 pm).

May 13: View the recording of our MS Teams Gr. 12 Parent/Student Info Session:

https://sd40bccamy.sharepoint.com/:v:/g/personal/jlekakis_sd40_bc_ca/ESU5Lkg7YLdGIRH7QtHMItoBkS4UpbbKG-c6RJ0_IWQhDQ?e=RCiHzc

May 17-27: Grade 12 students will be able to sign up for their time slot (June 7-9) during which they will be filmed crossing the stage. Up to 12 students crossing the stage within a 15-minute period. Students will be free to sign up for whichever time they wish. For example, if a group of 3 friends wants to be filmed in sequence, they could sign up for consecutive time slots (i.e. 4:01, 4:02, 4:03 pm).

Please visit <https://nwss.studentappointments.net/admin/> to book your stage-walk appointment (for June 7-9). Please use one of the following web browsers: Microsoft Edge/Explorer, Safari or Firefox to access the website.

Your login is your student number and your password is your date of birth (i.e. 20030501 if you were born May 1, 2003).

May 27: Valedictorian applications are due.

<https://nwss.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Valedictorian-Application-2020-2021.pdf>

May 31: Personalized graduate messages for stage-walk filming are due. Please use the link below to create a 1-2 sentence message that will be read as each graduate crosses the stage. If this is not completed by the student, a generic message will be generated.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=A6INaIQXNE6f6JdvA1PFKmkpfWxOcOxEhiLAAO5BGXFUNFU2STQ5NE0zMDVUSUw2Wks1S1JSU0Y5RS4u>

June 3-4: Grade 12 students will be picking up their keepsake caps, gowns and tassel from the school (location TBA).

June 7-9: Grade 12 students will arrive at our new school theatre for their scheduled filming and photos (appointment times will take place between 3:30 – 7:30 pm).

We are happy to announce that due to recent changes in PHO guidelines, **spectators are now allowed to participate in the individual graduation ceremonies** that are planned at NWSS. We recognize this is a special moment for families, and up to 4 guests will be allowed to enter the NWSS Theatre to watch individual graduates cross the stage. Please be advised that this limit will be strictly enforced and any PHO changes that further affect guest participation will be communicated as soon as it is available. Detailed instructions for the stage-walk process will be shared soon.

“INDIVIDUAL STUDENT PLUS IN-PERSON SPECTATORS

Only the individual student, their guests, and staff running the ceremony are present. Max. 4 guests allowed per student. For indoor ceremonies, guests should be members of the students' household(s) or someone who lives on their own but regularly interacts with the occupants of the household(s).”

In addition, we will also be providing live-streaming options for family members and friends to view graduates cross the stage. Furthermore, once completed, the entire virtual ceremony will be launched online through the school's Vimeo account on Thursday, June 24 (6 pm).

Students are also reminded to pay for their grad fees through School Cash Online <https://www.schoolcashonline.com/> and to select their grad gown size. This year's grad fees will include the following keepsake items: grad cap, tassel and gown, a V-shaped stole (in school colours), a custom grad 2021 mask, a grad composite photo and two individual grad photos provided by Artona.

If you have any questions regarding any of the details of the school leaving ceremony, please contact Vice Principal, John Lekakis (jlekakis@sd40.bc.ca).

Sincerely,

Mr. M. McLeod

Principal
New Westminster Secondary