



# NEW WESTMINSTER SECONDARY SCHOOL

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May 7, 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 update 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.

As the educational landscape continues to evolve concerning year-end events aimed to recognize the NWSS graduating class of 2021, our admin team will do our best to share updates or changes with our graduating students and families. Meanwhile, our decision-making and timelines are based on information provided to us from the school district, along with the ministries of education and public health.

In keeping with the guidelines from the Provincial Health Officer (re: social distancing and gathering), we are once again organizing a hybrid school leaving ceremony event. This will involve a virtual ceremony that will include recorded speeches, performances, and other graduate contributions. More importantly, NWSS is collaborating with Artona and a video production company to create 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 Artona photos taken, one as they arrive to the school theatre (whether in their own attire or with their cap and gown), and another with their cap and gown after they have crossed the stage.

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

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

**May 13:** Follow up MS Teams info session for Grade 12 parent and students. Please use the link below to join the meeting. If you are unable to attend the meeting, there will be a video recording of it uploaded to the school website.

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

**May 17–21:** During the week of May 17, 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. We will have 12 students crossing the stage within a 15-minute period. As this is an unconventional ceremony, we will not be alphabetizing students, rather they will be free to sign up for whichever time they wish. For example, if a group of 3 friends wants to be filmed together, they could sign up for consecutive time slots (i.e. 4:01, 4:02, 4:03 pm).

**May 25:** Personalized graduate message for stage-walk filming are due. Please see below:

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

**May 27:** Valedictorian applications are due.

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

**June 2-4:** 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 3:45 – 7:00 pm).

While we recognize this is a special moment for families, **unfortunately parents are unable to attend in person** due to recent province-wide guidance from the Provincial Health Office (PHO). Please be advised that this will be strictly enforced and any PHO updates or changes that affect guest participation will be communicated as soon as it is available. Therefore, parents will not be able to gather in the school building/campus during the filming. In the meantime, we are looking at live-streaming options for families to view their child cross the stage. In addition, once completed, the entire virtual ceremony will be launched online through the school's Vimeo account on Thursday, June 24 (6:00 pm).

Finally, we know that this event is different from what usually takes place for graduation. However, while we creatively and safely adapt to our current reality, we are excited to be able to capture this special moment for all our graduates in an innovative and timeless manner! We will ensure a high quality, finished product for each Grade 12 student as we try to recognize and highlight the NWSS graduate class of 2021.

Students are also reminded to pay for their graduate 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