



NEW WESTMINSTER SECONDARY SCHOOL

835 Eighth Street, New Westminster, B.C. V3M 3S9

Telephone: 604-517-6220

April 6, 2021

Dear Grade 12 parents and students,

We are working on creating a meaningful celebration to commemorate the NWSS Class of 2021. 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 and regulations 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 in their formal attire as they arrive, and another with their cap and gown after they have crossed the stage.

In preparation for our grad-related events, we want to provide a general overview with the tentative timeline detailed below:

April 20: MS Teams Grade 12 parent and student information session (6:00 pm).
Please download Microsoft Teams and use the MS Teams invitation link below to join:

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

May 17–20: Over the course of four days, Grade 12 students will be able to sign up for their time slot during which they will be filmed crossing the stage. We will have 10 students crossing the stage within a 30-minute period (i.e. one student every 3 minutes). 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.

May 20: Valedictorian applications are due.

May 25: Grad biographies for stage-walk filming are due.

June 2-4: Grade 12 students will be picking up their keepsake caps, gowns and tassel from the school (location TBA).

June 7–10: Grade 12 students will arrive at our new school theatre for their scheduled filming and photos (appointment times TBA).

As we recognize this is a special moment for families, we are pleased to announce that each graduate may have up to two family members as guests to accompany them. Please be advised that this will be strictly enforced and any PHO updates that affect guest participation will be communicated as soon as it is available.

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 online (through School Cash Online) and to select their grad gown size. This year's grad fees will include a grad cap and gown, a V-shaped stole (in school colours), a custom grad 2021 mask, and two 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