

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

RE: A MESSAGE FOR ALL GRADE 12 STUDENTS

To all Grade 12 students,

The last number of weeks have presented all of us with difficult challenges as we navigate the rapid, and ever-changing, situation regarding COVID-19 in our community and around the world. Although there are many things we are currently working towards, we want to assure you that your graduation is one of our top priorities. School staff will be working closely with you to ensure that you have opportunities to complete all of your courses. Although in-class instruction has been suspended, your teachers and support staff are currently working on creative ways of offering opportunities for all students to continue their learning. Schools will be looking at a variety of approaches for continued learning opportunities ensuring that these opportunities are delivered in a variety of ways that are accessible to everyone.

We have received a number of questions from graduates like you, and we've compiled them into a question and answer document. If you have any further questions after reading the Q&A below, please reach out directly to your school for more information.

Kind Regards,



Robyn Gray, Superintendent

GRADE 12 STUDENT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

AM I GRADUATED NOW?

No, you are not graduated until you have met the 80 credit graduation requirements. You will graduate when you complete your required 2nd semester courses and any missing assessments. Teachers will be working with you to complete your 2nd semester courses over the next three months.

WILL WE GRADUATE?

Every student on track to graduate this year will graduate. This does not mean that students will graduate “no matter what”. Students are expected to continue their learning and complete the learning activities set out by their teachers in order to graduate.

AM I GOING BACK TO SCHOOL SOON?

We don't know yet. We are guided by the recommendation from the Public Health Officer (PHO). Her recommendation right now is that schools remain open, although in-class instruction is suspended. We do not know when this recommendation will end, but we are in close contact with the PHO's office, Ministry of Health, and Ministry of Education. They will make the recommendation to continue in-class instruction when they deem it safe.

WHAT ABOUT MY MARKS?

Teachers will be determining a final grade for students based on work completed to-date and the assessment of participation in learning opportunities that will occur over the coming months. Teachers will begin to provide learning opportunities for students no later than mid-April.

HOW DO I GET MY 30 HOURS OF WORK EXPERIENCE IF I DO NOT HAVE IT YET?

For the specific requirement of 30 hours of work experience within Career-Life Connections, students will be given many opportunities to fulfil these requirements in alternate ways. For example, students could do work around their home such as caregiving for younger siblings, household cleaning, yard maintenance, food preparation, maintenance work or household accounting. With this stated, student safety is paramount and normal mentorship requirements may not be possible.

HOW WILL I PRESENT MY CAPSTONE?

Teachers will work with students to fulfill the requirements of Career-Life Connections (CLC) and the Capstone project. Your CLC/Capstone teacher will be reaching out to you in the coming weeks with instructions on how to complete this course.

WHAT ABOUT GRADUATION ASSESSMENTS?

Grade 10 numeracy assessment and any outstanding English 12 or Communications 12 provincial assessments are the only assessments required for graduation. At this point in time, we are waiting on confirmation from the Ministry of Education when these assessments will be available.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO GRADUATION CEREMONIES?

At this point, graduation ceremonies have not been formally cancelled. The Cowichan Valley School District will continue to comply with the rules set out by the Provincial Health Officer. More information will be provided at a later date.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN WITH PROMS?

Proms are not sanctioned by the District and are no longer hosted by secondary schools. Parent Graduation Committees will be making decisions about proms. We will also be advising Parent Graduation Committees to comply with the rules set out by the Provincial Health Officer.

HOW WILL THIS AFFECT THINGS LIKE SCHOLARSHIPS?

Schools will continue to work with businesses and universities to provide scholarships and bursaries. Schools will have more information. **Please check in with your school ASAP as deadlines are fast approaching.**

WHAT ABOUT GOING ON TO UNIVERSITY?

Students will be able to continue their learning, complete their courses, and move successfully to post-secondary studies or to the world of work. For students looking to pursue post-secondary studies next school year, the Ministry of Education will ensure transcripts reflect all final course marks submitted by schools to enable post-secondary institutions to proceed with their admission processes. Furthermore, the Ministry of Education will continue to work with the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training and with post-secondary institutions to ensure the smooth transition of graduating students in this extraordinary year. You can click this link to apply to most BC post-secondary institutions: <https://apply.educationplannerbc.ca/>

HOW WILL MY TEACHERS BE TEACHING ME?

That is up to the individual teacher. They may hold classes online via Zoom, Microsoft Teams, or other online programs. They may also email you material. Your teacher will connect with you directly about what your learning will look like.

I DON'T HAVE A PHONE OR COMPUTER - HOW AM I GOING TO SHOW MY WORK?

If you do not have access to the technology you need, please contact the school. Or, have your parent or guardian contact the school for you. We are looking at various options to support your learning. If you do not have wifi, please have your parent/guardian call Telus or Shaw as they are making internet available to some families for free. Your family will need to contact them directly for more information and to see if you qualify. For students who do not have the means to connect with teachers and material online, a paper option will be provided.

HOW COME I HAVEN'T HEARD FROM MY TEACHER YET?

A teacher should have made contact with all students/families by this time. If you have not heard from a teacher, please contact your school and make sure they have the correct contact information. If you have a cell and/or email, please let the school know so it is easier for your teachers to connect. Be sure to answer any phone calls from blocked numbers as that could be your teacher.

IF WE GO BACK TO SCHOOL, DOES IT TAKE AWAY FROM THE SUMMER?

Plans are being developed for you to complete all of your required credits for graduation by June. As long as you engage in the learning activities you will graduate by June 30.