



March 9, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians and Grade 12 Students,

As we approach Spring Break, I want to provide our grade 12 families an update regarding commencement ceremonies and graduation functions, including prom. On February 4, 2021, the [Province updated its health and safety measures](#), including the current Provincial Health Orders' continuation. The Province of British Columbia continues to have restrictions in place for gatherings and public events. These events include concerts and conferences and professional, college, and school sporting and social events.

Given that staff and student safety is paramount, after consultation with the Administrative staff at our high schools, we regret to inform you that we have canceled **prom events** for this year. Please note that one of the factors that we considered in reaching this decision was that the Province announced no immediate timelines to change the Provincial Health Orders. Additionally, there have been high daily COVID-19 numbers reported by the Province. I realize that this news will be upsetting as prom events have been memorable celebrations for students in the past. Still, please know that we did not make this decision lightly. Additionally, I ask students and parents not to host private unsanctioned prom events in the coming months, as this will put many community members at risk. Please note that COVID-19 cases in our schools directly reflect community transmissions in Chilliwack, so let's continue to pull out all stops to keep our community safe.

We will be moving forward with the **same convocation process as last year** to honour our students and families. The events will respect physical distancing, and all health and safety protocols. We will provide the opportunity to celebrate each graduate in person and a live streaming and virtual celebration that families can enjoy. These commencement ceremonies require careful planning to ensure that we recognize our graduates in the best way possible under the COVID-19 restrictions. Your school's administrative team will communicate key details around the process closer to your school's commencement date.

Finally, to the Class of 2021, I know that this has been a challenging year, but know that we honor you for your accomplishments, tenacity, and resilience. We are proud to share in the excitement of your graduation.

Sincerely,

Rohan Arul-pragasam
Interim School Superintendent