

PSO Modified Grad Ceremony Information. A Few Questions and Answers.

It has been a challenge to 'think outside the box' when it comes to this new grad ceremony format. Communicating what's happening is also harder with few grade 12s here to have a meeting with. Here's a few questions and answers for next week.

➤ **What are the times and dates for the ceremonies?**

Hopefully, you have been contacted with a time either on Thursday the 18th or Friday the 19th. If you haven't, contact the school and ask for Noelle Lamoureux. The 'ceremonies' start at 5:30 both nights and finish at 8:30.

➤ **When do Grads get their grad gown and cap and when do they have to be returned?**

We are scheduled to have the gowns delivered June 11th. It takes a little time to organize them so best-case scenario would be early the week following. This depends on a timely delivery of the gowns, so we are hoping for Monday or Tuesday if all goes well. They will be due back following the ceremonies, either Thursday or Friday so they can be boxed up and returned to the company that rents them so they can be cleaned and shipped to the next graduation.

➤ **Can the grad wear their Prom dress or suit/tux if they bought/rented one?**

Yes! We understand this has been a difficult time especially when it comes to Proms across the province so we are offering Grads the choice of whether they wear their prom dress or suit/tux.

➤ **Where do we park?**

As grads and their families arrive for their time they will drive around behind the school and park. Parking attendants will be present to direct you to the proper entrance.

➤ **Where do we go once we are parked?**

The presentation of diplomas is in the courtyard under a large tent. Grads and families will enter through the shops entrance. Again, there will be people to assist and direct you. The grad and their family will proceed down the shop hall toward the gym/courtyard. The family will pass through the gym and be directed to the viewing area in the courtyard in preparation for the presentation of their grad. The grad will remain behind and will pass through the door to the courtyard and wait for the reading of their name, scholarship won and any bio information. Photos are a part of the ceremony and parents are encouraged to take as many as they like.

➤ **What is the format of the ceremony and how can the grad feel part of the whole event?**

The ceremony will have many of the same aspects of a regular ceremony. There will be a welcoming from the Chief Helen Henderson, short speeches or messages of congratulations from a number of dignitaries and a Valedictorian speech. For most grads however they will not be present. In fact, almost all the speeches and well wishes will be on the recording that is being made of the event. The presentation of the grad is being recorded from 2 different angles as well as still shots taken randomly throughout the 2 nights. All the recording of the festivities will be stitched together into a video keepsake for the grads which will hopefully be available about a week following but will probably be with the report card package available after July 1st. We are also looking at a digital download option as well.

➤ **Will there be an opportunity for any pictures with the grad afterward?**

Yes. The dry grad committee has arranged for a photographer to be present to take photos of the grad and or family. This service is free for the first photo. Any additional photos will be available for a small fee.

➤ **Does the grad and family have to leave immediately or is there a time limit?**

We have allotted five minutes for the grad to be presented but there will be a small amount of time following for families to take photos or get a photo taken and return the grad gown if they have chosen to wear one. The only problem we have is with the accumulation of too many people and the need to find parking places for grads and families arriving for their time slot. We need to be efficient in what we do but we understand we still need to find time for grads and families to celebrate.

We are looking forward to the two nights but staff, and I am sure yourselves, are disappointed we are not able to launch a full-fledged grad ceremony. We hope what we have planned provides a satisfactory replacement given the restrictions placed on us by circumstances beyond our control.

PSO