



# EVER CREEK SECONDARY SCHOOL

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14505 – 84 Avenue, Surrey, British Columbia V3S 8X2 • Tel: (604) 543-8149 • Fax: (604) 543-9762

April 24, 2020

Dear Class of 2020 and Families,

I am writing to all of you with a very heavy heart today. This is a very difficult message to send to you at a very challenging time in the world. Although this may not seem like a surprise to you, we are now in a position to understand that your graduation dinner/dance and commencement ceremonies are now cancelled. I know this will be extremely disappointing news for all of you and I truly wish that we weren't forced into this decision. Our Surrey Schools Superintendent, Jordan Tinney, sent out a video message to you earlier this week: <https://vimeo.com/409645152>

We know from listening to Dr. Bonnie Henry, our Provincial Health Officer, that it will be a long time until we can have large gatherings. Thus, it is simply not possible to have a grad dinner of more than 300 people and a commencement of more than 1200 people.

Graduation activities are lifetime highlights for students, families and school staff. We all love to come together to acknowledge the years of dedication and hard work that everyone has done to achieve so much. A district wide committee of secondary school principals and vice-principals is being formed to investigate possible options to recognize and celebrate the Grads of 2020. The staff at Ever Creek will be working together to plan and organize to ensure that you receive the proper recognition for graduation that you so deserve.

You probably have many questions about what might happen:

1. What might commencement look like and when might it happen?
  - a. We might consider a **virtual** commencement. We are investigating how to possibly make this happen. This will allow all of your friends and family to view an on-line commencement. We are considering this since we simply don't know when we might be able to plan for a full gathering in the next school year. Many of you might be in other countries or cities attending post-secondary schools or you might have moved away to work.
  - b. We might consider individual or small group recognition depending on a potential easing of restrictions in the near future.
  - c. We might also consider continuing with a **traditional** commencement. We are booking a date in the fall but do not know if large gatherings will be allowed even then. However, many of you might be in other countries or cities attending post-secondary schools or you might have moved away to work.
2. Will we select a valedictorian? What's the process?
  - a. Yes. The staff-led Valedictorian Committee will set up a process and let all grade 12s know what will happen in the coming weeks.



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3. Will dinner/dance be rescheduled?
  - a. Maybe. There are so many unknowns about gathering large groups and we know that many grads will not be in town next fall.
4. Can I get a refund for my grad fee?
  - a. We are committed to refunding as much of this fee as possible once we know what our recognition will look like
5. What about the Dry Grad?
  - a. These are organized by the Dry Grad Parent Committee. Stay tuned for information from this group of dedicated parents.

In the next week, all Grade 12 students will receive an on-line survey asking about what you would like to see happen for commencement and dinner/dance plans. This important information will guide us as we work with staff and the district about how to celebrate your accomplishments!

I am sorry about the impact this global pandemic is having on you - the ***Class of 2020***. You are an outstanding group of young people and have worked so hard to achieve your graduation in a situation that no modern grad class has faced. The resiliency and perseverance that you demonstrate now will serve you well in the future. Ever Creek Secondary, will do our best to celebrate your accomplishments. Please watch for more information in the coming weeks.

Please reach out to me directly if you have questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Mike Kilpatrick  
Principal