



September 28, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Re: Community Youth Activities “Grad Pranks”

As we settle into the new school year, we are reminding parents, guardians, and students of our 2022 graduating class, of the expectations regarding pranks and celebrations.

Celebrating educational milestones is a tradition; however, there have been incidents in the past of unsanctioned activities that have crossed the line from good-natured fun, to criminal activity.

This fall, social media trends have also amplified acts of theft and vandalism in schools across the region. We are asking your help to ensure your son or daughter is aware that unsafe or unlawful activities can have serious, lasting, consequences. Youth who participate in criminal activity could face criminal charges or school sanctions. These sanctions may include exclusion from graduation activities such as commencement ceremonies, suspensions, and can affect students’ eligibility for scholarships and post-secondary admissions.

It is also important for parents and guardians to know they may be held financially responsible for damage caused by their children. Please see the attached excerpt from the *School Act*.

It is important that we work together to ensure that our young people do not take part in, or condone (provoke, encourage, or support):

- *Bullying, cyberbullying, harassment, threat(s) or intimidation;*
- *Violence of any form;*
- *Verbal, physical or sexual harassment or abuse;*
- *Discrimination in any form;*
- *Theft;*
- *Unsafe or dangerous activities;*
- *Vandalism;*
- *Possession or use of intoxicating or banned substances;*
- *Possession or use of weapons (or replica weapons) and explosives.*

We ask that you understand the position of both the district and all our schools in taking the necessary disciplinary steps where appropriate, to ensure the safety and security of our school community.

Over the years, students from the graduating class have planned unsupervised camping trips or other group activities. Sadly, some of these activities have resulted in injuries and even deaths, due to impaired driving, or misadventure. We support your decision to not permit your son or daughter to attend unsupervised events. If you are uncertain about the status of an event, please give the school administration a call.

This letter may feel like a dire warning, however, it is because we want to keep your children safe and successful, that we take this matter so seriously.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jordan Tinney".

Dr. Jordan Tinney
Superintendent of Schools/CEO

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "B. Edwards".

Brian Edwards
Assistant Commissioner, Officer in Charge Surrey Detachment

LEADERSHIP IN LEARNING

SCHOOL ACT
BC Ministry of Education
Governance and Legislation Branch C-1 April 16, 2009
REVISED STATUTES OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, 1996

Division 3 - Joint Rights and Duties
Liability for damage to property

10 If property of a board or a francophone education authority is destroyed, damaged, lost or converted by the intentional or negligent act of a student or a francophone student, that student and that student's parents are jointly and severally liable to the board or francophone education authority in respect of the act of that student.

[1997-52-4 effective Aug. 1/97, BC Reg. 287/97]

LEADERSHIP IN LEARNING

Surrey Schools – Superintendent's Department 14033 92nd Avenue, Surrey, B.C. V3V 0B7
Tel: (604) 595-6308 Fax: (604) 595-6309 www.surreyschools.ca