

Dear Grade 8 Parents and Guardians,

We hope you are all safe and well and taking care of yourselves while we move towards the end of a memorable school year. Our Grade 8 team has been strategizing how best to honour and celebrate our graduates in a safe and meaningful way, and we appreciate your patience with us as we worked out the details. In line with public health guidelines and our school board's direction, we are planning for both a **drive-through and a virtual ceremony to take place on the evening of June 24.**

To keep everyone safe, **YOU MUST AGREE TO FOLLOW** the guidelines below **BEFORE** coming to the graduation drive through:

- All people coming to the graduation drive-through ceremony must complete and pass the Ministry of Education's school screening tool: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>
- All people attending the drive-through ceremony must follow the masking and distancing protocols specified by Halton Public Health. These include wearing masks if you will be closer than 2 m to people who are not members of your immediate household.

Drive-Through Ceremony and Photo Station

The drive-through ceremony will take place from 6-9:00 pm on Thursday, June 24. Groups of 5 families will be assigned a 15 minute time slot to drive through the front entrance so that we may cheer for and celebrate each student, while students may pick up their diplomas, composites (if you have ordered one) and gift bags. (Please note that you will not be able to pick up any student belongings at this time.) Only one graduate will be allowed out of the car at a time, so please encourage your child to move quickly, maintain his or her distance from the staff, and be patient with others as you wait your turn.

After going through the drive-through at the front of the school, families may pull into the parking lot on the west (Kindergarten) side of the school to take pictures at the photo station. Family members may get out of the car for the pictures, and we would ask you to maintain your distance from other families and be patient while you wait. It is up to you and your child as to what he or she should wear to capture this moment!

The link to share your preferred time slots with us is here: [OLP Drive-Through Grade 8 Graduation](#) and we would ask you to please complete it by **Friday, June 18 at 4 pm** so that we can finalize the schedule and share it with you. If your family is not able to attend, please let your child's teacher know as soon as possible and we will arrange to drop these items off to you.

Virtual Ceremony

The link to the virtual ceremony will be shared with families through SchoolMessenger at the conclusion of the drive through. You will be able to share it with any other family members who might want to view it and view it whenever you would like until the end of the school year. The virtual ceremony will include some of the features of our regular graduation ceremony, such as:

- Valedictorian's address
- Greetings from our Director of Education, Mr. Pat Daly, our Superintendent of Education, Mrs. Nancy Dinolfo, one of our Oakville Trustees, and Mrs. Dore-Anderson
- A prayer and message from Father Jerzy, the pastor at St. Michael
- A brief liturgy
- Presentation of the graduating class
- Graduation awards – almost all of our awards for our graduates are centred on our Catholic values as expressed in our [Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations](#). Students have received the information about this year's awards and their focus from their teachers.
- A video presentation by our students featuring "Some Good News"
- An advertisement in the Oakville Beaver and a special link on the school's webpage celebrating our graduates.

We hope that this helps to answer some of the questions you might have about our plans to celebrate our graduates. If you have any additional questions, please contact your child's teacher.

Thank you again for your ongoing support as we look forward to celebrating our Grade 8 students.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Kozak

Mr. Miljan

Mrs. Dore-Anderson