

St. Gabriel Graduation Recognition 2020

The circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic have forced us to alter our plans from a tradition graduation ceremony and gathering. In consultation with staff and a parent sub-committee on Catholic School Council, the following is an outline of the events surrounding Grade 8 Graduation at St. Gabriel CES. Collectively our goal is to make the recognition of this major milestone as special and as memorable as possible for our Grade 8's. Please note that all safety precautions related to proper social distancing have been considered in the creation of this two-part event.

- **Graduation Ceremony** - A pre-recorded Graduation Ceremony will be created and posted to our school's YouTube site **st.gabrielhcdsb** on **Tuesday, June 23rd at 6:00 pm**. Students and their families will have the opportunity to watch the ceremony which will include the following:
 - A student-led liturgy including music ministry and an address from our St. Gabriel Pastor, Father Janusz Roginski
 - An address from the Director of the Halton Catholic School Board, Mr. Pat Daly
 - Greetings from the Board – HCDSB Trustee
 - Principal's Address – Mr. C. Tilley – Principal of St. Gabriel CES
 - Introduction of Valedictorian – Ms. E. Carey – Vice-Principal of St. Gabriel CES
 - Valedictorian Address
 - Presentation of Individual Student Awards
 - Closing Remarks
 - Student Performance of Graduation song
 - Slide-show Presentation
 - A program containing the above outline will be shared with all families prior to the ceremony

- **Outdoor Presentation of Diplomas and Award Certificates** – will take place **Wednesday, June 24th from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm and 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm** which will include the following:
 - The creation of a 5-minute block schedule that will see each family drive thru the bus lane of the school and to allow graduates to collect their diplomas in front of the school – they will be distributed in Alphabetic order
 - Staff will be on site to congratulate each graduate and present them with their certificates and some graduation keepsakes – staff will always maintain proper social distancing
 - Decorations and a photo backdrop will be onsite which will allow each graduate to be photographed after receiving their certificates – photos will be shared with families in the days following Graduation – formal or dress-casual attire is recommended for students

- A virtual message board will be created to allow staff to communicate their words of encouragement and congratulations with the graduates and to further allow the Grade 8 students to share positive messages and best wishes with one another
 - We ask that **only the student graduate** and **one family member** exit the vehicle to take photos and/or to record video footage – this is in the interest of maintaining safety and proper social distancing
 - Families are asked to please adhere to the 5-minute block of time. **A holding area parking spot will be established and visible to parents in the Bus Lane.** We ask families to arrive 5 minutes early and to pull into this spot. Cars will then be ushered by staff when it is their turn enter the front of the school – detailed instructions to be emailed to parents
 - HCDSB diploma covers will not be distributed to students until the Fall. The company that produces the certificate protectors was closed due to COVID-19
 - Please note that the Graduation Composite Photo that many families purchased as part of a photo package will not be available until the Fall
 - **Diploma distribution will commence Rain or Shine**
- **Drive Thru Distribution/Curb Side Pick Up Expectations:**
 - Anyone accessing the school site must **conduct a self-assessment for COVID-19** before visiting the school/site. **Each of the following four (4) conditions MUST apply:**
 - 1. You are **symptom-free** of respiratory illness;
 - 2. You are not to be in self-isolation, as advised by Public Health;
 - 3. You have not been outside of Canada within the last 14 days from the date of entry to the school site;
 - 4. You have not cared for or had known contact with an individual with confirmed COVID-19 OR COVID-19 like symptoms (fever, new cough, difficulty breathing).
 - If any of the **above conditions are not met, then you MUST NOT visit the school site.** Please contact Ms. Carey careyel@hcdsb.org or Mr. Tilley tilleyc@hcdsb.org to discuss alternate arrangements.
 - **Remember: only the student graduate** and **one family member** are permitted to exit the vehicle.