

February 17, 2021

Dear Grade 12 Students and Families,

RE: 2021 Convocation + Prom

As we hold the health and safety of our students as a top priority, our district teams have been searching for ways to support our upcoming grads as we navigate the ongoing challenges of pandemic. In light of [the health and safety measures that were announced by our province at the beginning of February](#), we wanted to update Grade 12 families on convocation and prom events for this year.

2021 Convocation

After consultation with our district's health and safety team, we will be moving forward with the same convocation process as last year that will honour our students and parents. The event will respect physical distancing and mask guidelines, allow for each grad to be celebrated in person, and provide a live streaming and virtual celebration that families can enjoy.

While we cannot host our traditional graduation ceremonies at the Event Center, our 2021 Convocation Ceremonies will allow our graduates to cross the stage with **two** representatives from their family present at the Abbotsford Arts Center. This unique opportunity for parents/guardians provides a powerful experience for both our graduates and their families to be together in person and mark this significant milestone.

This event requires careful planning and demonstrates our commitment to our graduates by ensuring that they are recognized in the best way possible under the COVID-19 restrictions. We will communicate key details around the process closer to your school's convocation date early spring.

Prom

As many of you know, the Province of British Columbia continues to have restrictions in place for gatherings and public events. These events include concerts and conferences, as well as professional, college and school sporting and social events.

With this information, we regret to inform you that Prom has been cancelled for this year. As upsetting as this news is, we want you to know that this decision was not made lightly, and we had hoped we could still hold this memorable event for our students. Additionally, I would ask students and parents to assist us by not hosting private unsanctioned prom events in the coming months, as this will put many community members at risk.

Next Steps

For the Class of 2021, we know that this school year is like no other. You have demonstrated that you have the capacity to adapt to changing circumstances which is a skill that will serve you well as you move forward in life. We look forward to celebrating your achievements with you, your family and friends in virtual and safe ways.

Families can expect an update on key events from your school during the spring as we progress throughout the rest of the year. If you have questions or concerns, please contact a member of your school's administration team.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Godden', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr. Kevin Godden
Superintendent of Schools