



THOMAS HANEY SECONDARY SCHOOL

Member of the Canadian Coalition of Self-Directed Learning

Principal: Mr. Grant Frend

Vice Principals: Mrs. Andrea Clayton / Mr. Wayne Chow

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March 4th, 2021

Dear Families,

I'm writing to you today to update you on our hopes for our cap and gown ceremonies for this year's graduates. We are preparing a number of different plans for our 2021 grad celebrations so that we remain as flexible as possible and are able to adjust to any provincial orders that are in place at the time. Because provincial restrictions are more likely to ease as we head into the spring months, we will make our final decisions as close to the usual time of our ceremonies as possible while still giving families enough time to plan. We will do the most we can within the context of the restrictions that are in place at the time, and we will work with Fraser Health to ensure that our plans fully align with health and safety expectations.

Our preferred option is to host a series of small in-person ceremonies in our THSS gym from June 1st to 3rd. We hope to be able to bring groups of 15 grads at a time together for in-person ceremonies in our gym. Each ceremony would include students in their cap and gown and a walk across the stage to receive a THSS School Leaving Certificate (actual Dogwood diplomas aren't sent to schools until the fall), congratulated, at a distance, by Mr. Frend. As well, students would receive any awards, bursaries, and scholarships they have earned. Mountain West Photographers will be on site to take pictures of the grads. Each grad would be permitted 2 guests to view the ceremony in person to ensure that we comply with health guidelines. We will record these ceremonies so that students/supporters will have a digital version of all ceremonies. Again, this plan is dependent on guidance that will be given later in the spring by Fraser Health and/or the Provincial Health Officer.

Grad fees, in the amount of \$70, are now posted on the parent portal, and are due by April 9th, 2021. This fee includes keeper cap and gown, decorations, a THSS grad folder that includes a grad composite photo, and videography. We would also like to acknowledge our PAC who will be providing all grads with a personalized Grad 2021 lawn sign! At this point we do not expect to be able to offer a banquet/dry grad for this year's grads. We may look at small formal wear receptions for students at the school at some point in the spring, again dependent on public health guidance. If we are able to move forward with this, there would be a small additional fee to cover the cost of food/drink.

Grad ceremony sign up will occur in late April. Grad fees must be paid before signing up for a time slot. The tentative ceremony dates/times are as follows:

June 1st: 3-4 pm, 4-5 pm, 5-6 pm, 6-7 pm, 7-8 pm

June 2nd: 3-4 pm, 4-5 pm, 5-6 pm, 6-7 pm, 7-8 pm

June 3rd: 3-4 pm, 4-5 pm, 5-6 pm, 6-7 pm, 7-8 pm

We will keep you updated throughout the spring as more information becomes available. If you have any questions, please email me at gfriend@sd42.ca

Thank you,

Grant Frend