



# Vancouver Board of Education

School District No.39

ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT

1580 West Broadway

Vancouver, B.C. V6J 5K8

May 5, 2020

Dear Parents and Students of the Graduating Class of 2020,

I am writing to confirm that the difficult decision was made to cancel all District in-person graduation ceremonies and dinner dance/banquet celebrations for the 2019-2020 school year.

This decision was made in the interest of everyone's health and safety and to respect the current restrictions on public gatherings as set out by the Provincial Public Health Office. In making this decision now, we have time to explore different opportunities to recognize and celebrate this significant life event for the Class of 2020 – although differently. Our plans will be created based on two parts: a virtual pre-recorded video presentation of the graduating class and a special acknowledgement of grads as they come to the school to pick up grad items at a time scheduled by the school by walking down an honorary grad hallway. Specific plans will be shared with you in the coming weeks as schools work with their graduation committees on the details. In addition, information about refunds will also be shared as we work through cancellations with the venues.

Graduation is an important life milestone and a special time for everyone involved with education. Although it will be different, the District is committed to working with school communities in ensuring this significant event is both recognized and celebrated. As noted above, staff at all secondary schools are exploring different opportunities to acknowledge the achievements of our 2020 graduates.

In closing, I want to acknowledge the sense of loss that graduating students may feel due to the cancellation of previously planned events. Students are reminded that counsellors are available to connect with and support them even though classes are not in session.

Should you have any questions about graduation events, please contact your school principal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob Schindel'.

Rob Schindel