



## Sir Charles Tupper Secondary School

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Good afternoon Parents and Grads of 2021.

We hope you are safe and well and thank you for your patience and understanding as we finalize plans for our Sir Charles Tupper graduation ceremony. As you are aware, there are provincial protocols restricting gatherings. In addition, the VSB has placed limits on access to the building for students, staff, and parents, as well as mandated that school remain in session for students in grades 8 to 11. With these restrictions in place, the District has advised all VSB secondary schools to create a pre-recorded graduation ceremony and provide Grads an opportunity to receive their certificates. At Tupper, we are working closely with Artona to create a commemorative video for Grads. In addition, Artona will be on site June 25<sup>th</sup> to take pictures of Grads as they cross the stage in our auditorium.

For the past several weeks, grad sponsor teachers and I have met with members of the Grad Committee executive to review plans for the grad ceremony. We discussed options based on the current health and safety protocols and came up with a draft plan as follows:

- Masks will be required by all grads, family members and staff while on site at Tupper
- Grads will have the opportunity to select a friendship group of no more than 10. We will combine groups where necessary. This will be done through Grad Committee.
- Families will be invited to join the Graduates for a procession starting in the north parking lot.
- Grads and family members will be marshalled along the north side of the building (23rd sidewalk), then along the pathway west of the building. This route will provide opportunities for pictures as well as space well-wishers (staff) to cheer them on as well as a display of decorations.
- From the west entrance to the school, Grads will proceed into the building and into the auditorium as parents continue along the path to the south parking lot.
- Once in the auditorium, Grads will take turns crossing the stage, receiving their certificates, having their citations read, receiving scholarships/awards/acknowledgements, and having their Artona pictures taken.
- The sightline from the door of south parking lot into the auditorium **will allow for a small group of parents to view the crossing of the stage**. Marshals positioned at the door will assist parents in viewing.
- Once the entire group of 10 has had an opportunity to cross the stage, the group will exit the auditorium where they will be greeted by their parents and other well-wishers (all socially distanced). In addition, they will collect their commemorative gift bag prepared by Ms. Hahn.

For this ceremony, our intention is to provide as much celebration as possible along the procession, in the auditorium, and once the Grads exit the auditorium. Grads will receive their caps and gowns in advance to provide ample opportunities for photos with family and friends. We plan to schedule the entire event on June 25<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 4pm to maintain the momentum and festive atmosphere of the day. We remind Grads and families that our intention, given the limitations in place, is to provide a meaningful and memorable ceremony. It is our hope that

Grads and families can plan other events to continue the celebration beyond what the school is able to provide.

In the coming weeks, Grad Committee will be coordinating the groupings of graduates. The school will send out invitations for Grads to pick up their caps and gowns, as well as notify them of their scheduled time to arrive for their ceremony on June 25<sup>th</sup>. To cover the cost of the gowns, video, decorations and gift bags, we will be asking Grads to contribute \$50 which can be paid via [schoolcashionline](#). To facilitate scheduling of the grad ceremony, please email our grade 12 counsellor, Ms. Ellis, if you will not be attending. Staff sponsors will continue to meet with Grad Committee to finalize details including the opening of time capsules.

While we appreciate our parent community and their willingness to volunteer for this event, we are restricted to the number of people we can have on site. While parents will not be allowed in the auditorium, we are welcoming parents and families to join Grads outside the building and hope to make this day a very special milestone.

Thank you all once again.

Jason Lauzon  
Principal  
Sir Charles Tupper