



# KILLARNEY SECONDARY SCHOOL

6454 Killarney Street  
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May 3, 2021

Dear Parents and Students of the Killarney Grad Class of 2021,

As you know, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Vancouver School Board has had to cancel all District in-person graduation ceremonies and dinner dance/banquet celebrations for the 2020-2021 school year. This decision was made for health and safety reasons, and to respect the current Provincial Public Health Office orders.

However, while our traditional ceremony will not be taking place at the Orpheum this year, the administration team and our Grad Committee are working together to plan an enjoyable alternative ceremony to recognize this milestone event and the achievements of our grads. The Walk of Honour ceremony has been designed to ensure that all health and safety protocols are followed, with students in their current class cohorts.

At this time, I can share with you the following dates and information:

**Wednesday, May 26<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, May 27<sup>th</sup>:** Grad Gown distribution

- Grads will receive their grad gowns in their Block 2-3 class on **Wednesday, May 26<sup>th</sup>**.
- Grads without a Block 2-3 class will pick up their grad gowns in the cafeteria at lunch time on **Thursday, May 27<sup>th</sup>**.
- All Covid-19 safety protocols will be in place for grad gown distribution.
- Students who have not yet paid their grad fees **MUST** pay online through School Cash Online (preferred) OR bring a cheque for \$60.00 on their pickup date/time (please see the Q & A about this year's grad fees).
- Grads may choose to take photos with their families in their grad gowns and caps any time before, and after the Walk of Honour in June.

**Wednesday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>:** Killarney Class of 2021 Walk of Honour

- Grads will be scheduled for their Walk of Honour across the stage in the auditorium wearing their grad gowns **in their cohorts during their Block 2-3 class.**
- **Any Grads without a Block 2-3 class will be scheduled as a group at the end of the afternoon.**
- Grads with scheduled morning classes will have their Walk of Honour in the morning.
- Grads with scheduled afternoon classes will have their Walk of Honour in the afternoon.
- All Covid-19 safety protocols will be in place for the Walk of Honour. Seating in the auditorium will be in cohorts with physical distancing between and within cohorts. Masks must be worn at all times except when the graduate is crossing the stage and having their photo taken.
- A detailed schedule will be communicated to students and their families in June.

- Grads will receive their mini grad composite and school-leaving certificate and any additional awards they are receiving as they cross the stage.
- Achievements and awards will be read out as Grads cross the stage.
- An Artona photographer will take an official photo of each Grad on the Killarney auditorium stage.
- A video recording will be made of all grads crossing the stage. Every Grad will have access to a digital download of the video following the Walk of Honour ceremony.
- Speeches by District officials, Mr. Gill, Ms. Glynianyi and our Valedictorian will be filmed in advance of June 23<sup>rd</sup>, and will be compiled into a video with a montage of grad photos.
- Every Grad will receive their Artona photo from the Killarney Class of 2021 Walk of Honour with their diploma in August.
- Grads will keep their grad gowns following their walk across the stage – no need to return them!

We will keep you updated on developments as we get closer to June 23<sup>rd</sup>. I have attached a Q & A with answers to some of the most common questions.

Thank you for your understanding and please be assured that we are working very hard to ensure that our Killarney graduates and their families have a safe and memorable school-leaving ceremony.

Sincerely,

*Katrina Thomson*

Katrina Thomson

Vice-Principal (grade 12)

## Q & A

**Q: Can parents attend the Walk of Honour with their grad?**

A: Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 safety protocols, we are unable to allow parents to attend the Walk of Honour in the auditorium. This is a District level decision that applies to all Vancouver School Board secondary schools. We recognize that this will be a huge disappointment to parents, but we hope you will understand that we cannot make exceptions. We also hope that you will enjoy the opportunity to take photos of your graduate in their cap and gown, prior to and following the Walk of Honour, and to view the Killarney Class of 2021 video.

**Q: When will my grad receive their diploma?**

A: Diplomas will be received from the Ministry of Education in August. They will be mailed to graduates, together with their official Artona photograph.

**Q: When will my grad receive their yearbook (if ordered)?**

A: Yearbooks will be distributed the week of June 21<sup>st</sup> to grads who have ordered a yearbook. Details about yearbook distribution will follow in the coming weeks.

**Q: Since there's no grad ceremony at the Orpheum, will I get a refund of my \$60.00 grad fee?**

A: We will be able to give a partial refund to all grads. The portion of the grad fee retained covers the cost of: Artona photographer, flowers, gown, cap and tassel, grad folder and mini composite, grad video with speeches and a grad souvenir item. We are still working on the budget for this year's grad activities but we estimate a refund of approximately \$20.00 to each grad.