

## Message to Gr 12 Families re: June Graduation Celebrations

May 18, 2021

### THIS MESSAGE IS BEING SENT TO ALL FAMILIES OF GRADE 12 STUDENTS

Good Afternoon,

I am writing you this afternoon to provide you with an update on our plans for a June Graduation celebration for our graduating students. This will include both students who attend Pickering High School and those Pickering High School students who have been attending DDSB@home this year.

This has been a very difficult year for all our community with the many sacrifices and changes each of us has had to endure during this pandemic. This is especially true for our graduating class. We are committed to providing a June graduation celebration for our graduating students and their families, while abiding by the health and safety restrictions set out by the Durham Regional Health Department and the Province of Ontario.

At this time, with those restrictions in mind, we are beginning to plan for a virtual graduation ceremony that will be pre-recorded and shared with our families on a specific date. This will be very similar to the virtual ceremony that we did last year. This ceremony will include the following:

- Graduation Address from Principal & Board Representatives
- Virtual Student procession including the following:
  - Student Picture
  - Listing of all awards for that student
- Valedictorian introduction and Valedictorian address

To help us prepare for this ceremony, we need confirmation that you wish to have your child's picture included in the video. At this time, we will use a student's graduation photo, if it has been taken, or their yearbook photo from grade 11. **If you do not wish your child's picture included in the video, please email us at [pickeringhs@ddsb.ca](mailto:pickeringhs@ddsb.ca) confirming your decision not have your child's picture in the video.**

### Graduation Gowns and Caps

As you may know, we had begun graduation gown orders prior to the April break. You can continue to order the gown if you wish, or you may contact the office if you wish to cancel your order and get a refund. The school will be purchasing a graduation cap for all graduates so they can have it as a keepsake. We will also be providing a graduation program to all families as a keepsake of their child's graduation.

## **Graduation Photo's**

As you may be aware, our photographer had a pop-up studio for grad photos prior to Christmas. We have been in contact with our photographer and they are prepared to re-open the pop-up studio once the public health measures allow, even if this occurs over the summer. This will allow our families to have a professional graduation photo taken and have that photo include in our graduation composite. The school would then mail out this composite to all families in the fall. We will notify you when this opportunity presents itself.

If this pandemic has taught us one thing, it is that we need to be flexible in our planning as circumstances seem to change quickly. If public health measures change, we will then re-examine what type of ceremony we can host. We will continue to keep you updated on any changes that may occur with respect to our graduation celebration and details regarding the ceremony as they become more defined.

I understand that there is a lot of uncertainty currently and I would ask for your patience as we continue to plan on how to make this important milestone for you and your child as special as circumstances will allow.

We look forward to being able to celebrate your child's accomplishment with you near the end of June.

Take care and stay safe.

Randy Tennant

Principal

Pickering High School