



EASTGLEN HIGH SCHOOL

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GRADUATION 2021 – Drive Through Event - UPDATE!

Dear Parents, Guardians and Class of 2021,

The start of June signals a momentous time for you as you move along your journey towards graduation. We are excited to mark this amazing accomplishment by celebrating with you and your families. As you know, we have been working hard to make this year's graduation a meaningful, memorable recognition of your years of hard work.

We've been working towards planning a ceremony that celebrates you, while keeping everyone safe, as we continue to see COVID-19 cases in our schools and in our community. As more Albertans get vaccinated and as the province eases health restrictions throughout June, I have received questions about how this might impact our graduation ceremony this month. Our planning has included careful consideration of provincial health restrictions related to events such as graduations, and this year's events reflect the flexibility of things like virtual ceremonies and drive-through events.

Last week, we received additional information from the provincial government about how we can have a safe graduation event. While it does provide us a bit more latitude to have a few more people participating at one time, the health restrictions do not allow us to have our entire graduating class, families and staff together at one time.

It is important to note that the restrictions that apply to the general public are much tighter for schools.

As I mentioned last week, we have worked collectively with our other Edmonton Public High Schools to ensure we are all doing similar types of events. We were hoping that we might be able to use our Majestic Theatre and have families come in and watch their Graduate walk across the stage in their caps and gowns. However, at our High School meeting last week, we received clarification from Alberta Health Services and Edmonton Public Schools regarding how the restrictions apply in the schools. Even with the anticipated government announcement that may remove restrictions for the general public, we have been informed that no indoor gatherings will be permitted for schools.

Our culminating event for our Graduates is a 'drive through' event. We will have an outdoor stage set up on our front lawn, with photo booths and gift items for the students. This event will be organized with time slots for families to watch their child walk the outdoor stage. Initially, we set Monday, June 28th as the day for this event – planned during instructional time.

We learned last week that, based on the continuing restrictions for schools, should there be inclement weather impacting our outdoor "drive through" we would not be able to allow parents to come inside to have the "drive through" event indoors – if it is during instructional hours. However, we did learn that should we have our "drive



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through” event outside of instructional hours – such as a weekend – if we have inclement weather, we could pivot to having two parents come into the school building to watch their child cross the Majestic Theatre stage, have photos taken, etc. as a back-up plan.

To that end, we have moved our outdoor **Eastglen Class of 2021 Drive Through Graduation Event to Saturday, June 26th**. This event will take place in the morning through to the early afternoon. This will allow us to have a back-up plan of using our Majestic Theatre should the weather not cooperate with us. We will be releasing to families time slots that you will book – just like you do for parent-teacher interviews. More information will be shared in SchoolZone This will include the booking of these time slots and a video explaining how the process will work.

We are so proud of our class of 2021, who continue to show resilience, adaptability and poise amid such a challenging year. We look forward to celebrating with you soon!

Yours in partnership,
Mr. Darren Fox
Principal

Mrs. Christine Bileau
Assistant Principal

Mr. Jeff Lerbekmo
Assistant Principal