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June 9, 2021

RE: VIRTUAL GRADUATIONS CONTINUE AT ALL RAINBOW SCHOOLS

Dear parents/guardians:

When the Province announced that students would be learning remotely for the remainder of the school year, the government raised the possibility of outdoor graduation ceremonies.

We know how important graduations are for students and families. They are also important to the administrators, teachers and support staff who work with students to nurture success.

Health and safety, however, is equally as important and remains our first and foremost priority. Outdoor gatherings for graduations would contravene the [safe reopening guidelines](#).

Given the ongoing focus on health and safety, the planning that has already occurred and the costs that have been incurred, virtual graduations will continue at all Rainbow Schools. Students, staff, families and friends will join together to celebrate from a safe distance.

Please be assured that schools are going the extra mile to make graduations meaningful and memorable. Some schools may invite students to pick up a graduation souvenir or take a photo on an individual basis in compliance with provincial limits on the size of outdoor gatherings. Other schools may connect directly with students to personalize the experience.

This month, all students who are 12 years of age and older at the time of vaccination and their caregivers have an opportunity to receive a first dose of COVID-19 vaccine to protect themselves and those around them. Second doses will be administered prior to the start of the 2021-2022 school year.

As students and families become immunized, this will go a long way in ensuring a full return to school activities, including in-person learning, sports, clubs, and, indeed, graduations.

We are all awaiting the day when we can return to some sense of normalcy. With each passing week, I am confident we are inching our way closer and closer. Let's continue to be guided by Public Health, with health and safety first and foremost.

Thank you for your patience and understanding.
Thank you for working together to keep everyone safe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Norm Blaseg".

Norm Blaseg
Director of Education