



May 28, 2021

Dear Grads and Families,

With the exciting provincial announcement of [BC's Restart Plan](#) this past Tuesday, the district has received numerous inquiries from parents about plans and opportunities for commencement ceremonies.

We recognize that this year is not how our grads envisioned their final year, and that this is a significant milestone for our students, their families and our staff. We're committed to making these year end ceremonies meaningful for students and families, while at the same time being consistent with the PHO Gathering and Events Order and the K-12 Health & Safety Guidelines, and balancing the comfort level, safety, and needs of our students and their families.

The restart plans laid out are for public events and households only and do not apply to education settings. The guidelines for schools remain the same as we currently have under stage 2 of the K-12 Education Restart Plan. The Ministry of Education has been clear that graduation ceremonies will continue under the guidelines recently published, COVID-19 Planning Resource – Graduation. We promise to do our very best to make your grad shine on their commencement day. We hope you take the opportunities under the new guidelines to celebrate your child at home as well.

Belmont Commencement 2021

The newly re-scheduled dates for the Belmont Graduation Commencement ceremonies are Wednesday, June 23 and Thursday, June 24.

Please remind your Grad to keep checking the **Grad Google Classroom** for important information and updates!

Ceremony Bookings - *Good news, Grads will be able to book their own ceremony time!*

We will be using school appointment for bookings: <http://belmont.schoolappointments.com/>

School appointments will be open for Commencement Ceremony bookings **from Monday, May 31 at 9:00am until Monday, June 14 at 9:00am**. The available ceremony times on each day are: 10, 11, 1, 2, and 3. We ask that Grads try to book a time that is not during their class time, but we acknowledge that some families may be coordinating with their own work schedules.



ÉCOLE SECONDAIRE

BELMONT

SECONDARY SCHOOL

3041 Langford Lake Road Victoria, BC V9B 0L9

Tel (250) 478-5501 Fax (250) 478-2879

Email: belmont@sd62.bc.ca

<http://belmont.web.sd62.bc.ca/>

Cap, Gown, Grad Mask, and Lawn Sign Pick Up

A pickup schedule will be posted today in the Grad Google classroom. Students or their parent/guardian can pick up their items on their scheduled day/time at the athletics tent in front of the main doors during the week of **June 7-11**. Please make sure to wear a mask and stay 2m apart from others. **A big thank you to the City of Langford for purchasing the lawn signs for our Grads!**

Health & Safety Information Pertaining to Commencement Ceremonies:

- Grads will need to book a Commencement ceremony time
 - These will be in groupings of 35 students, as per the K-12 Health & Safety Guidelines as it pertains to Gathering and Events
 - Students will need to arrive 20 minutes prior to their ceremony time, which will allow time for a picture in the photo area, if they like, and to get organized into the line
- Grads will already have their regalia, and are expected to come already dressed in their Cap, Gown, and Grad Mask.
- Grads will have the upper Goudy parking lot available, and then walk through the fire lane behind D-wing into the gym. They will sanitize prior to entering the gym.
- Grads will be lined up along the inside of the gym and proceed directly to the theatre (and to their assigned, physically-distanced seat, 2m apart from others)
- All grads **MUST** have their masks on at all times, and may remove them **ONLY** when they pause on stage to get their LifeTouch photo taken.
- The ceremony will be Livestreamed (more information to follow) and available for viewing later.
- The ceremony will include: O Canada and Pomp and Circumstance student performances, Elder Henry's welcome, Valedictorian speeches, and featured Grad song (all pre-recorded). Students will each receive a folder that they will pick up before crossing the stage.
- Once everyone has crossed the stage, they will exit through the theatre front exit to the main doors and out to the parking lot
- Students keep their Cap and Gown

There will be a professional (Roll Focus) video prepared for the Grads and their families, containing: O Canada, 2021 Grad song, and Pomp and Circumstance performances, speeches from Superintendent, Principal, Valedictorians, and other special guests; Grad photo slideshow with Commencement comments; and Student photo slideshow. The video will be available through an electronic link on June 26.

Thank you for your understanding and your commitment to celebrating the Grad class of 2021!

Thank you,

Melissa Horner
Belmont Vice Principal