



École Secondaire Robert A. McMath Secondary School

4251 Garry Street, Richmond, British Columbia, V7E 2T9 - T: (604) 718-4050 - F: (604) 718-4051
Email: mcmath@sd38.bc.ca Website: mcmath.sd38.bc.ca

May 20, 2021

Dear McMath Grads and Parents/Guardians:

I hope this letter finds you and your family well.

We are writing to you to communicate important information about the filming of our 2021 Valedictory ceremony. This year's commencement celebration will be a virtual ceremony that will be filmed in the McMath Rotunda on June 4th and 5th. Our staff are working hard to provide a special experience for our Grads. We must also make sure that this is a safe experience for all involved. As a result, this letter and the accompanying attachment contain very important details about the procedures and schedules for this year's commencement celebration. Please take the time to read through all of this information.

Our grads will be receiving a grad gown package, which contains their graduation cap, gown, stole and 2021 tassel. They will need to pick their gown packages at school on June 1st and June 2nd. We will be calling down grads from their classes to the rotunda in the morning and in the afternoon. Grads are receiving their gown packages before commencement so that they can arrange to take photos with family members at a time that is convenient for them as these gowns are for them to keep. Please note that for safety reasons there will not be an opportunity to take group photos at the school during commencement filming.

Also provided is a commencement filming schedule for the grads. In small groups, grads have been assigned a specific time for filming on **Saturday, June 5th**. Please arrive at your scheduled filming time wearing your formal grad gown attire, ready to walk across the stage. Please do not arrive early, as we cannot have large groups gathering. Grads, we ask that you arrive on time and proceed immediately to the North Gym where you will be lined up in the order as shown on the attached schedule. From there you will be brought into the school by staff. Markers will be in the breezeway at the entrance to show you where to stand. Grads should not be carrying bags, flowers, purses or any other items when they arrive to line up to cross the stage. There will not be any place to leave these items. Please leave them in your vehicle or with family.

Grads, a video has been made to show you what you must do as you walk across the stage during filming. Please take a look at the Youtube: <https://youtu.be/gQA95WLQkDg> or the Download link: <https://we.tl/t-7BN6j10ODS>. We ask that you review this video multiple times before your day to film so that you know what you will need to do during filming. Remember to smile! Students, bring a TOONIE that your grad class will put towards your Legacy Gift. This TOONIE will be dropped off in a basket that will be located on the stage before you start to walk across. Grads will then walk across the stage as shown in the video, then they will enter the Drama room where they will get their picture taken by Artona. They will then exit the Drama room and walk towards the front foyer of the school where they will have the opportunity to take a picture by another photographer and then exit the school. The Dry After Grad (DAG) Committee will have a little keepsake for each grad to take as they exit the front

Home of the Wildcats





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entrance of the building. We ask that grads and family members please leave the school property as soon as they have exited the building and received their keepsake. *The filming of each individual student crossing the stage, their picture taken by Artona and their picture as they exit the building will take approximately 2 minutes per student.*

Family members who have been confirmed to watch will line up outside the breezeway entrance opposite the North Gym *in the same order as their child, as shown on the filming schedule.* Confirmed family members will be escorted into the rotunda so they can view their child crossing the stage. Please note that there will not be any seating. You are free to take pictures of your child crossing the stage, but we have been asked by our videographer not to use flash as this will impede the final product. Once your child has crossed the stage, you will be asked to leave the rotunda and directed to exit the school through the front entrance where you will meet your child. Staff will be present to direct you.

Family members who have requested to observe their child crossing the stage will receive a confirmation email next week. If you have not emailed your request yet, please do so by Thursday, May 27th by 12:00pm. We have recently learned that the Ministry of Education has announced that up to four family members and children under 12 are permitted to watch the filming of the “crossing of the stage” for your graduate as long as they are members of the same household. As this adds an additional layer with respect to keeping the experience safe for our students, staff and families, we ask families to be thoughtful in their decision of whether or not to come on-site to watch the filming of the crossing of the stage. This letter is to provide information about what the process will look like so that you can make an informed decision.

All grads and their family members who are confirmed to attend are reminded that all established school safety protocols remain in place for this event. Before coming to the school, please complete the Health Check process. If you are not feeling well, please do not come to the school. Grads, family members, and staff are all required to wear their masks, and maintain physical distancing from those outside of their immediate household at all times, while at the school. We greatly appreciate your efforts to help keep our school community safe.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at the school. We look forward to sharing this wonderful experience with our graduates.

Sincerely,

Ms. Adrienne Goulas

agoulas@sd38.bc.ca

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