



## ÉCOLE MISSION SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL

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June 1st, 2020

Dear Grade 12 Students and Families,

### **RE: Update on 2020 Commencement Process at Mission Raceway Park**

Our district team and school planning team have been working to search for ways to support our grads as we navigate the ongoing challenges of our "new reality." The health and safety of our students, staff and families continue to be our priority as we plan for the Mission Sr. Secondary Graduating Class of 2020. After consultation with our district health team, we have a plan that will honour our students and parents. The event will respect physical distancing guidelines, allow for each grad to be celebrated in person, and provide a live streaming of the event.

While we cannot host our traditional graduation ceremony with over 1800 people at the venue in Abbotsford, our plan allows our graduates to cross the stage with their family taking pictures and celebrating their accomplishments at Mission Raceway Park. This event will occur on Saturday June 20 starting at 9:00 a.m. with opening ceremonies that will be streamed live so the school community can watch virtually. Starting at 9:30 a.m. the first 50 students will walk the stage one by one and this process will continue on the hour until all grads have crossed the stage. This unique opportunity for parents/guardians provides a powerful experience for both our graduates and their families to be together in person and mark this significant academic milestone. This event is a complex undertaking that demonstrates our commitment to our graduates to ensure that they are recognized in the best way possible during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **2020 Commencement Process**

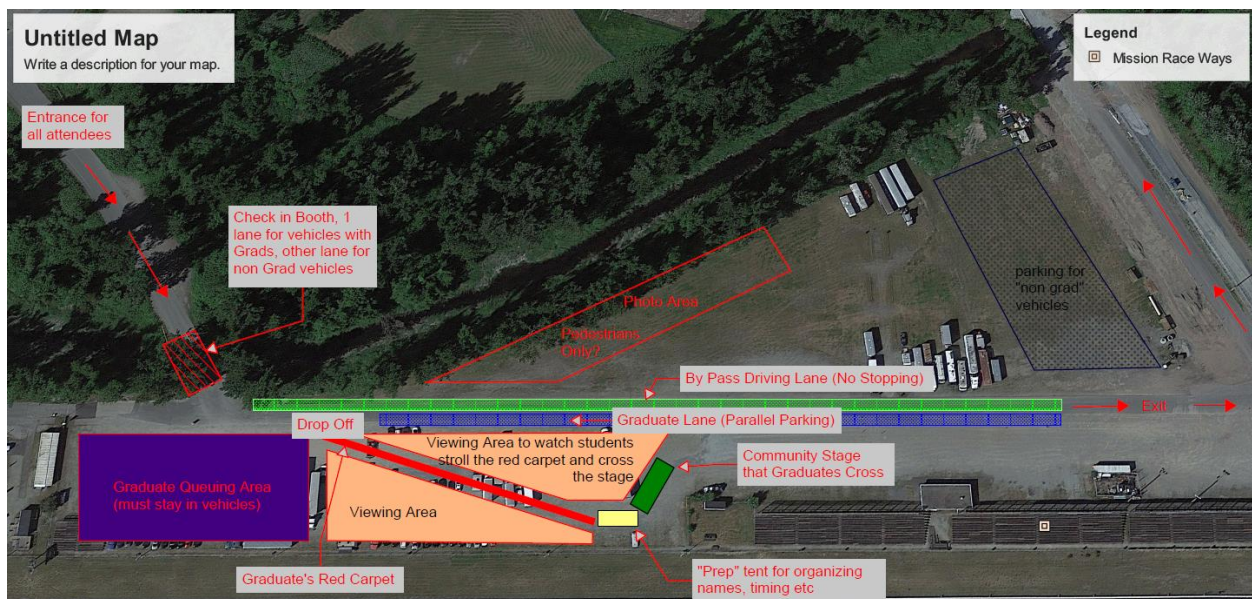
1. Starting June 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>, from 10:00am – 2:30pm families can come to Mission Secondary and pick up their grad gown and cap. Allowing students to pick up their grad gown and cap allows for families to get pictures done with extended families and the cap and gown is yours to keep.
2. During this time, students should also be signing up when they want to go across the stage on June 20<sup>th</sup>. They may choose to select a time where they are with their friends.
3. All fees, including grad fee, should be paid online prior to grad gown pick up.

## June 20<sup>th</sup> order of events at Mission Raceway Park:

1. 9:00 am - Opening ceremonies streamed live for families to watch virtually.
2. 9:30 a.m. - first 50 cars to arrive for crossing the stage.
3. One at a time a student will get out of their car, walk the red carpet and come onto the stage.
4. They will have their picture taken with me and I will pronounce them as a grad of 2020.
5. Parents will be able to get out of car and take pictures.
6. Student will exit stage and pick up their folder, yearbook and Scholarship if they were awarded one
7. This process will occur on the hour from the sign up the student had done the week before
8. Mission Secondary staff will be on site moving people and directing people to keep all the social distance procedures in place

To respect our province's physical distancing guidelines, parents and students will be expected to leave the parking lot directly following their graduation photo. Mission staff will be monitoring parking lots to ensure groups are not congregating, holding up the schedule and preventing the next group of graduates and their family representatives from arriving on time.

## Sample Plan



## Live Streaming, Photography and Graduation Celebration Video

The entire event will be live-streamed on June 20 so you may watch your peers as well as have your family celebrate from home as you cross the stage. The live streamed video will be available online for a couple of weeks after the event.

### Next Steps

As you might imagine, there will be a lot to coordinate to make this event a success. We have a team of teachers, support staff and administrators who will be working to put this together.

An important reminder that all Grade 12 students must be in a position to graduate to take part in the event. We are working with our Counselling staff and Administration to ensure that students are notified, and a plan is in place to support students for a strong end to the school year.

Outstanding fees for student activities, lost library books, textbooks, and uniforms need to be paid. The \$60.00 graduation fee will cover the cost for the diploma, photographer, live streaming, grad cap & gown, security for parking, rental of the raceway and other grad expenses.

Over the next week or so, please look for communication from the school for further details about the graduation ceremony.

Some of the “to do” items for graduates will include:

- Ensuring you are a graduate in good standing – if you are not sure, contact your teachers and your counsellor today
- Paying attention to grad announcements on the website, via school messenger and email

We hope this unique celebration will highlight an exceptional group of graduates and their families.

Please contact us at the school if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Pearce". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping loop at the end.

*Jim Pearce*

Principal

Mission Sr. Secondary School

