

Dear AOB Grade 12 Families,

The Teacher Grad Committee at AOB has been in an ongoing discussion with our Student Grad Council to determine what the best and most workable approach to what this year's graduation might look like. We have put together a preliminary plan and would like to share some of it with Grade 12 families so that you are aware of what your child's grad fee will be going towards. We would also like to ask for your input in determining the best date for the event. We would like to stress that this is only a preliminary plan that has been put together based upon current AHS guidelines. The plan is subject to change based upon how the Covid-19 situation in society continues to evolve. I have organized the graduation information into three categories to help keep all of the details easily understandable.

1. Program Description: We will be holding a live-streamed event at the school for students in early June. This event will be live streamed on a platform to be determined but will likely be streamed on YouTube. Only students will be permitted in the school, so families will have to view the ceremony from a remote location. The event will be held in the gym and students will gather in various parts of the school to view it as it happens. The event will be a combination of the speeches and toasts that would normally be present at a traditional banquet combined with the speeches that would typically be a part of a traditional commencement ceremony. We expect the event to take approximately 3 hours, though it will likely be closer to two as the divisional Graduation Mass will be scheduled on a different date. We will be announcing these important dates closer to the event once we have a clearer picture of what restrictions may or may not be in place at that time.
2. Grad Fee: The graduation fee that each family must pay for their graduate is the only source of funding that we have for this event. Graduation events are not covered in any way by government funding. The following is a breakdown of the costs that will be covered by the graduation fee this year.
 - a. Grad cap, tassel, gown, stole, and charm for students to keep. (This is the first year we are providing all of these things for students to keep, as normally we rent out the gowns and stoles.)
 - b. Commemorative grad folder: Inside the folder is the student's grad photo and a certificate representing their high school diploma.
 - c. Printing costs for the commencement program: each graduate will receive three copies of the commencement program printed on card stock, in colour, featuring custom designed cover artwork from one of our talented graduates.
 - d. Commemorative Grad Composite Photo: A 11x17 copy of the entire graduating class.
 - e. A Grad 2021 mask to wear to the event.
 - f. A photo of the student on stage receiving their diploma folder.
 - g. As many decorations for the event as we are able to afford in our budget.
 - h. A photo booth and backdrop that we will have set up outside for students to use before and after the event (weather permitting). We will be setting this up outside so that students are able to take photos with their friends without a face covering, depending on AHS guidelines at the time.

- i. Photographers for the event.
 - j. Snacks for students on the day of the event.
 - k. Any necessary sound or video equipment rentals.
3. **Things to do: Please ensure that your graduating child has completed the Instagram poll on the 2021 Grad Instagram account. Additionally, please feel free to follow yourselves for any important updates (@aobgradofficial). This poll will help us to determine if you would prefer a Friday June 4th evening commencement event or a Saturday June 5th afternoon commencement event. Bear in mind that we will also be recording the event and will make it available to students and parents for download afterwards.**
4. **We would like to thank families who have paid their child's graduation fee through our school's Business Office. We would ask that families please ensure that your child's grad fee is paid so that we are able to provide graduation memorabilia to them and so that we are able to make this event as special and meaningful as possible for them under these difficult circumstances.**