

AUSTIN O'BRIEN

Catholic Senior High School

May 25 | 2021



Dear AOB Graduation 2021 families,

With the return to in-person instruction, we will now be proceeding with our graduation based on Alberta Health Guidelines *Guidance for Schools (K-12) and school buses—scenario 1: Ceremonies and Celebratory events*. While we will have to adjust a few details of our plans, we believe that we will be able to provide our graduating students with the closest to a pre-pandemic graduation ceremony as possible.

While we will continue to hold our graduation on Friday, June 4th, 2021, we will need to adjust the timing of the event to occur during regular instructional hours. This is because Graduation ceremonies that occur outside of the school and/or outside of normal school hours must follow the *Guidance for Celebratory Events and the Guidance for Performing Arts*, including restrictions on attendance and audiences which would have a maximum number of 15 participants.

Consequently, the graduation ceremony will begin at 12:30pm on June 4th and finish by 2:45pm. **This event will be livestreamed and recorded.** The link to the livestream will be sent out no later than Monday, May 31st, 2021.

Graduates that will NOT be participating in the Graduation Commencement Rehearsal and Commencement Ceremony must have a parent/ guardian notify the school no later than May 31st, 2021.

Here are the important details that Graduating families will need to know:

1. **Special Delivery on May 27th**: We will be making a special delivery to each graduate's home on the afternoon of May 27th. We would ask that there be someone, preferably the graduate, there to receive this delivery.
2. **MANDATORY Rehearsal Details: Thursday, June 3rd**
 - There will be a rehearsal for graduates on Thursday, June 3rd beginning at 12:15pm in their block 2 class.
 - Any students who do not have a Block 2 class will be assigned to a cohort group whom they will process or graduate with during the ceremony. This will be shared with students no later than Monday, May 31st and will be posted outside the office.
 - Graduates will receive an individual boxed lunch and will watch a video prepared by our Graduation Committee which tells them everything they need to know about the graduation. Details of the contents of the video are below.
 - After the video, each Block 2 class or cohort will be called down to the gym following the route they will take during the ceremony. They will practice where to line up in the gym, where to enter the stage area, where to stop to receive their graduation certificate, and where they will have their graduation picture(s) taken. They will then line up with their Block 2 class/cohort and return to their class.

- During the rehearsal, the graduates will receive their gown, hat, stole, mask, and tassel. These will be theirs to keep. They will be wearing these items during the graduation ceremony on Friday, June 4th, 2021.

3. Graduation Day: Friday, June 4th.

- Graduates are welcome to attend their Block 1 class. If a graduate is not planning on attending their Block 1 class, we would please ask that parents or guardians excuse their absence so that they do not receive an automated phone call.
- Graduates need to be at the school by 11:30am in their graduation gowns, stoles, hats, mask, and tassels. They should go to their Block 2 class or the class they were assigned to. The graduation ceremony will begin at 12:30pm.
 - Program details:
 - Welcome by Mistresses of Ceremonies
 - Principal's address
 - Graduation Song
 - Graduation Liturgy
 - Valedictory address
 - Toast to the Parents
 - Response from the Parents
 - Toast to the Staff
 - Response from the Staff
 - Toast to the Senior Class
 - Presentation by Class Historians
 - Presentation of Graduation Certificates
 - Farewell to the Graduates

4. Other important information that we will be sharing with our graduates:

- **What do graduates wear to the ceremony?** Graduates will wear their gown, stole, hat, tassel, and mask to the school. The gowns are warm. Students often find it more comfortable to wear lighter clothing. **This is a semi-formal event:** students should wear dress shoes, dress pants, a dress shirt and tie, dresses, skirts, or blouses. **The following should not be worn:** Running shoes, jeans, leggings, t-shirts, hoodies, and other casual clothing. If there are any students who need help with this, please speak to Mrs. Page (Sandra.eberhardt@ecsd.net or 780-466-3161).
- **What about pictures?** Students will receive their graduation gown, hat, mask, and tassel during the rehearsal. These will be the graduate's to keep as they were part of the graduation fee. In discussion with their families and loved ones, they may choose to take pictures with their cohorts either Friday morning before the ceremony or at another convenient time afterwards.

- **It may be your Graduation but it's not entirely about you!** Although each graduate's family, teachers, and friends are excited and proud that they are graduating from high school, a lot of people helped them achieve this goal. Their family and loved ones want to remember this event as a happy day so students are reminded that they should behave in a way that is respectful and honourable.
- **School rules and expectations still apply:** Any student under the influence or in the possession of alcohol, drugs, or other illegal substances or paraphernalia will not be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony.
- **Who can come to the graduation ceremony?** Unfortunately, parents and family members may not attend the graduation ceremony due to Alberta Health Services regulations, but it will be livestreamed, recorded, and posted after the event.

**PLEASE HELP TO
PROTECT OUR COMMUNITY**