

Pugwash District High School

*Dr. Joseph Rotblat Hall
Jean Wallace Art Gallery*



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June 3, 2020

Dear PDHS Graduates and families,

Graduating high school is a significant milestone, not only for our students, but for their family and supporters as well. We are very proud of our graduates for all of their accomplishments both within PDHS and beyond. It is important to acknowledge these accomplishments in a meaningful way, and yet respect the Covid-19 pandemic we find ourselves in.

Although we are unable to provide our graduates with a traditional PDHS graduation ceremony this year, we will provide our students with the rite of passage by walking across our stage and receiving their diploma as well as earned scholarships, bursaries and awards, while ensuring public health protocols are followed and everyone remains safe.

I would like to inform you that graduation will be held on Tuesday, June 23 between 10:00AM and 5:30PM. Students will be given individual graduation times in alphabetical order and are able to bring four guests. Appointments will be fifteen minutes apart to allow guests time to take photos and then exit the building to ensure physical distancing is maintained. Graduates will be contacted well in advance of graduation to be given their graduation time as well as a date and time to pick up their graduation gown, sash, cap, and tassel. This will allow families time to take photos in advance of graduation day. Following this letter are the specific details of this year's graduation procedure.

The graduation for the Class of 2020 will look very different this year due to Covid-19. In order to adhere to Public Health measures, we are unable to host celebrations such as our annual graduation reception or community parade. Rather, events will need to be celebrated individually, with in-person components adhering to public health guidelines.

I assure you we will make this year's graduation memorable. This is a time to celebrate, however we will have to wait to celebrate together. I am looking forward to welcoming the newest members to the PDHS alumni family.

Sincerely,

Shawn Brunt, M.Ed.
Principal

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Procedures for the PDHS 2020 Graduation

On the day of graduation, students can be accompanied by four people during their appointment time. These four guests can be people from outside their household/"family bubble" as long as they are physically distanced. It is extremely important that everyone arrive at their designated appointment time to avoid people congregating as well as leave when their fifteen minutes is over to ensure physical distancing is always maintained for the safety of everyone participating.

The process for graduation is as follows:

1. PDHS Graduate and their four guests enter the school using the main entrance (Lobby) - at their appointment time.
2. Graduates will enter our gym when directed to do so.
3. Graduates will walk up on the stage as their name, awards/scholarships/bursaries, and future plans are read.
4. The graduate will pick up an envelope, which will contain their diploma, any bursaries they received, report card, transcripts etc.
5. Guest will have a couple of minutes to take some pictures.
6. Graduates will continue off the stage and into the cafeteria with their guests for a school-based photo.
7. Graduates will leave their gown and sash in the cafeteria in designated bins. Graduates will keep the cap and tassel.
8. Graduates and guests will then exit via the courtyard doors to then leave PDHS property.

There are several protective measures that will occur throughout the day to ensure people are safe:

- High touch areas (ex: doorknobs, railings and washrooms) will be cleaned often throughout the day.
- When preparing packages for the graduates, school staff will clean and disinfect the areas before putting together packages.
- No more than a group of 10 people will congregate at one time.
- Hand sanitizer will be readily available upon entry and exiting the building.
- Designated entrance and exit doors will be in place to ensure people are not crossing paths.
- When able, doors will be propped open to allow people to enter the school and gymnasium without having to physically touch a door.
- People must keep physical distance of at least 2 meters/6 feet at all times.

Precautions for families:

- Graduates and guests should follow proper hand washing techniques prior to coming to the school.
- Graduates and guests may choose to wear Personal Protective Equipment like masks and gloves, if they choose (<https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/staying-healthy/#masks>).
- As a further precaution students and families may want to set aside the diploma/package for a few days before handling.
- If anyone is feeling unwell they should not come to the building.

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