



June 3, 2021

Dear Graduates and Families:

On April 23, 2021, I sent an update regarding our graduation ceremony. At that time, I indicated that we would be waiting until after the May long weekend to make decisions about what our graduation ceremonies might look like. On May 14, 2021, school districts received guidance on how graduation ceremonies could be conducted at secondary schools. While some public restrictions were lifted after the May long weekend, the guidelines with respect to graduation ceremonies were not changed. Some questions have arisen about further changes to the public restrictions starting on June 15. That date is set as an “earliest” date, so there is no guarantee that the guidelines associated will be implemented in time for our ceremonies. Consequently, schools must plan based on the current guidelines.

While we cannot host our traditional graduation ceremony with over 2000 people, our plan allows our graduates to cross the stage with a maximum of **four** representatives from their family. This unique opportunity for parents/guardians provides a powerful experience for both our graduates and their families. This event is a complex process that demonstrates our commitment to WGSS graduates to ensure that they are honoured in the best way possible. Please see below for details as outlined in the Ministry guidelines for graduation ceremonies:

INDIVIDUAL GRADUATION CEREMONY PLUS IN-PERSON SPECTATORS

- *Only the individual student, their guests, and staff running the ceremony are present:*
 - *Maximum of four representatives per graduate. For indoor ceremonies, guests should be members of the students' household(s) or someone who lives on their own but regularly interacts with the occupants of the household(s).*
- *Gathering and crowding must be prevented at all times, in the school and on the school grounds:*
 - *Schedule individual ceremonies throughout the day/week.*
 - *Stage students and their guests to ensure groups do not gather and there is at least 2M physical distance between different groups (and within groups, if not members of the same household).*
 - *Minimize the number of guests onsite at any given time. Guests should be reminded to only arrive at the school just prior to their scheduled ceremony, and to leave as soon as their ceremony is complete.*
- *Guests must abide by all required safety measures.*

WGSS Plans for Graduation Cap & Gown Pick-up - June 14/15/16

1. Teachers will be given a schedule and students will pick up their cap & gowns by class. Students must be in good standing to receive these items (all fees paid, textbooks returned, etc.)
2. Students who are not attending in Quarter 4 may pick up their gowns on Wednesday, June 16 in the front foyer between 9-10:30AM. Parents/guardians may pick up on their student's behalf if necessary. Please remember that anyone coming in the school must be wearing a mask and adhere to physical distancing guidelines.
3. Please keep these items in a safe place until the ceremony. After the ceremony, the cap, gown, and v-stole are yours to keep as a memento of Grad 2021!

WGSS Plans for Remote Learning - June 24 and 25

We will be hosting individual graduation ceremonies, similar to what took place last year, for each Grade 12 student. We will be conducting the ceremonies on Thursday afternoon, beginning at 1:00 PM and all day on Friday. To create space and time for our Grade 12 students and their families to participate fully in our graduation ceremony, we are making some changes to the final week of classes for our students.

1. On Thursday, June 24, Grade 10 – 12 students will be learning remotely in the afternoon. It is understood by staff that Grade 12 students will not be able to participate in classes on Thursday. All other students in Grades 8 – 11 will participate in classes as per the adjusted schedule. Our My School Day app has been updated with the changes to the schedule.
2. On Friday, June 25, all our students (Grades 8 – 12) will be learning remotely via Teams.

WGSS Plans for In-Person Graduation Celebration - June 24 and 25

Included with this letter is a student schedule with a set reporting time on a specific day. **We ask that families report 30 minutes before their scheduled Graduation time.** Graduates and their parent/guardians will be lined up in a physically distanced format. Security and staff will be monitoring to ensure parents and students are physically distanced at all times. Time slots have been pre-arranged alphabetically. Due to the complexity of the process we are unable to adjust the times. Please work to adjust your schedule to match the time provided.

Time slots have been broken into 15-minute windows. Please ensure you arrive on time.

2. Students and their family members will enter the foyer and have an opportunity for photos on the red carpet.
3. From the foyer students will enter the Drama room when the appropriate cue is given. As they walk across the stage, they will be videoed, have their Stage Walk Narrative read by a staff member, and we will announce any scholarship, bursaries, or awards that they have received.
4. Due to physical distancing guidelines, the administration will not be able to hand out the diplomas or turn their tassels. However, we hope to capture a beautiful moment on video, as parents will be there to hand their children their diplomas and flip the tassels of their child's graduation cap. We encourage all families to [watch the instructional video of the ceremony here](#) to have an idea of what to expect. For those students who are unable to have a parent/guardian attend, please contact Adrienne Sargeant, asargeant@sd35.bc.ca, and we will make arrangements so that their graduation is special and memorable.
5. Once this has been completed, the graduate will exit out the Drama room door and move to the cafeteria with their parents for a graduation photo. We have booked Vibrant Photos for the in-person ceremony days so our students can get a picture of their graduation day. There will also be an opportunity for Principal's List students to take their photo.
6. Students and parents will then exit through the south doors of the cafeteria.
7. Parents and students will then proceed home. Security and staff will be present to avoid groups congregating in the parking area.

[Virtual Graduation Celebration Video](#)

Each graduate's stage crossing will be captured and compiled with other celebrations and speeches in a virtual format. The video will be live streamed on Tuesday, June 29 at 5:00PM. We encourage graduate families to inform family and friends for the viewing of the formal graduation video. The video will incorporate many of the traditions of our regular in-person ceremony as well as include a few added special tributes to our graduates.

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. It should take approximately 30-45 minutes from arrival to completion of the line-up, stage crossing and the photograph.

Students need to ensure that their accounts are in good standing to participate. Outstanding fees for lost library books, texts, and uniforms need to be paid. All graduates will need to have paid their student and grad fees as well. The grad fees will cover the cost for the videographer, grad gown package, photographer, and other grad expenses.

Over the next week, please look for communication from the school for further details about the graduation ceremony. Some of the “to do” items for graduates will include:

1. Ensuring you are a graduate in good standing.
2. Paying attention to grad announcements via e-mail and on Teams

We know that these planned events will not replace those lost for our graduating class. However, we hope that the unique celebrations and videos that are captured will highlight an exceptional group of graduates that were caught in an unprecedented year.

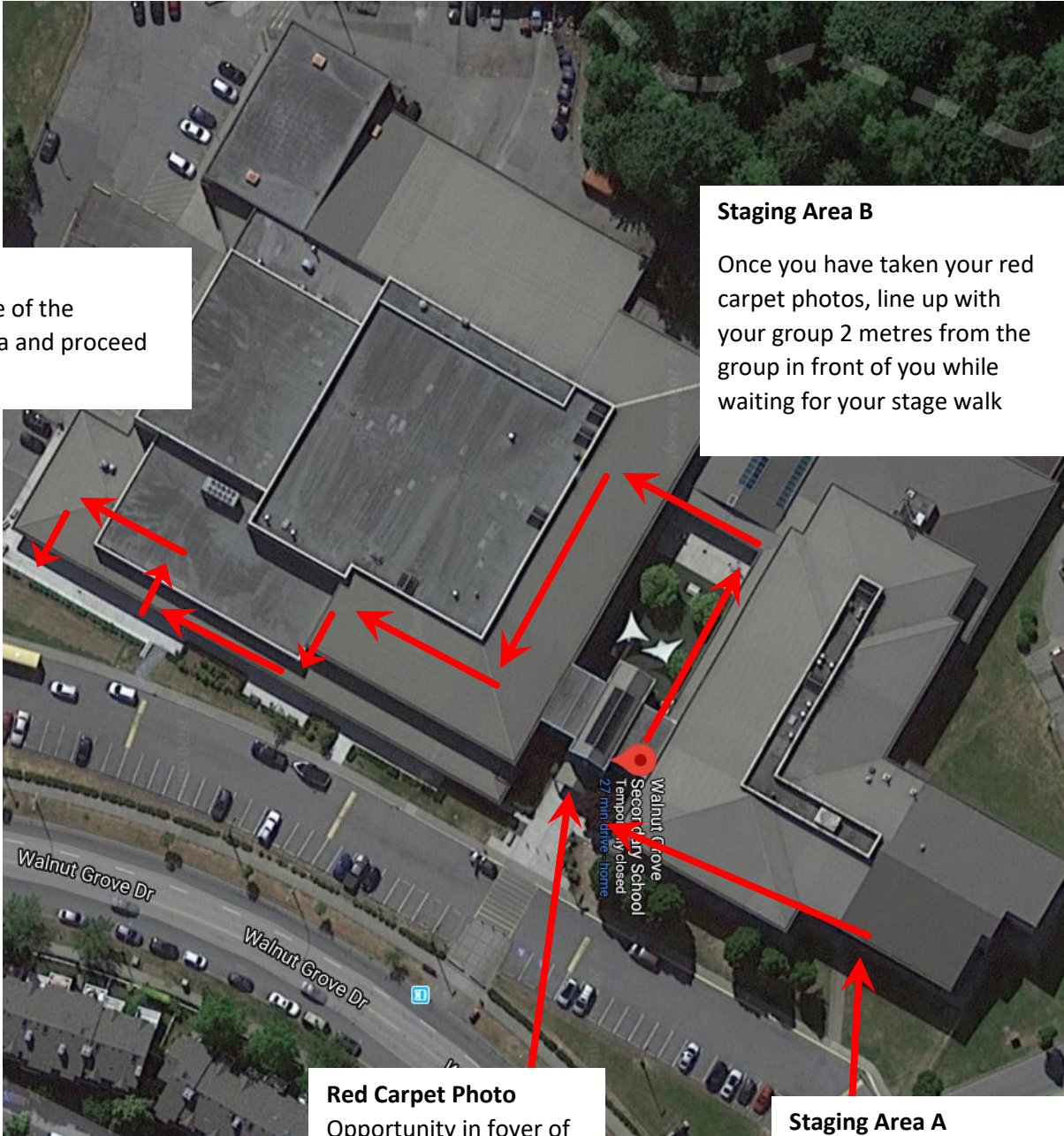
Please contact Adrienne Sargeant, asargeant@sd35.bc.ca, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Lyndon', written in a cursive style.

Mr. J. Lyndon
Principal

Graduation Set-up



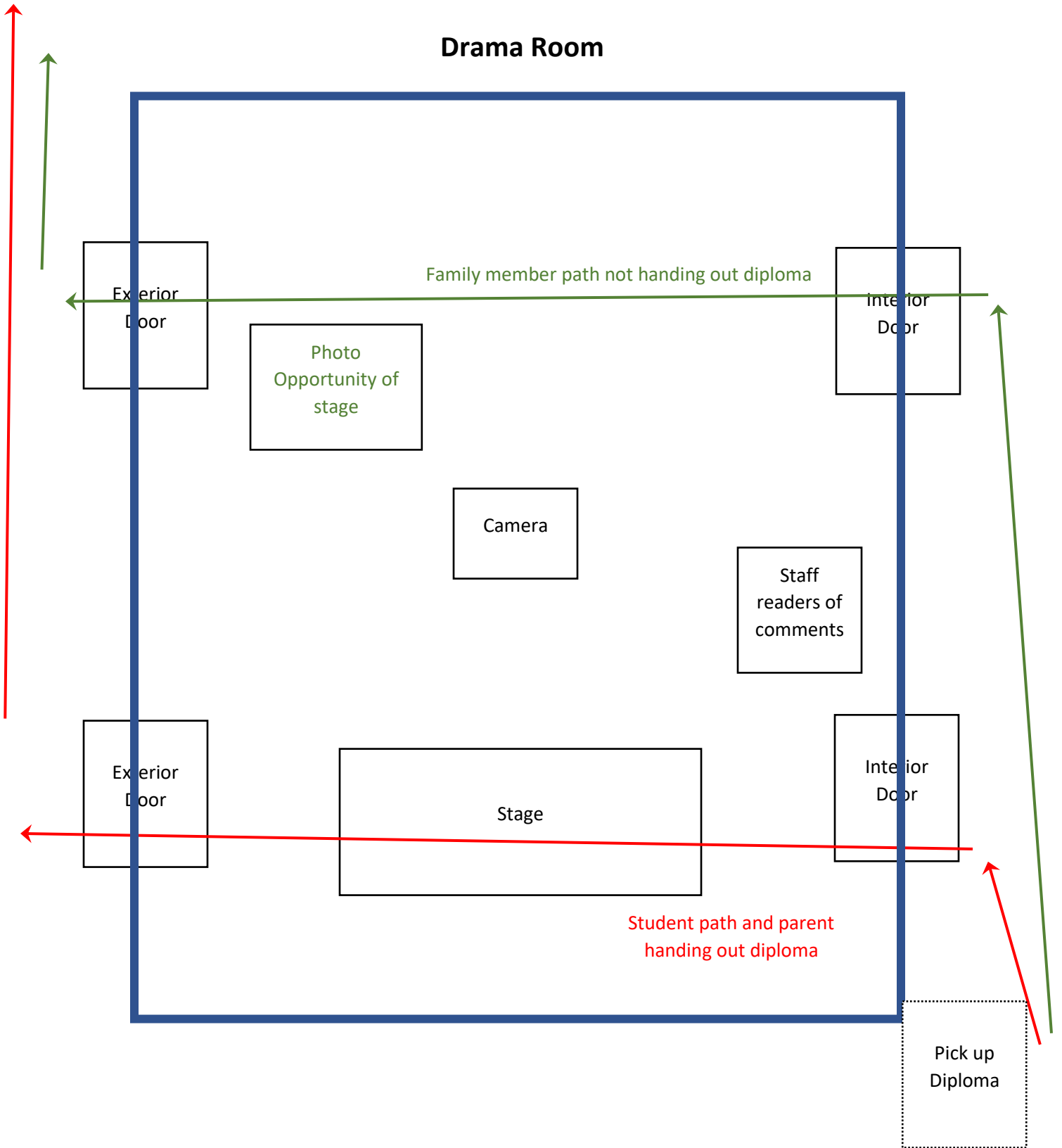
Exit
East side of the Cafeteria and proceed home

Staging Area B
Once you have taken your red carpet photos, line up with your group 2 metres from the group in front of you while waiting for your stage walk

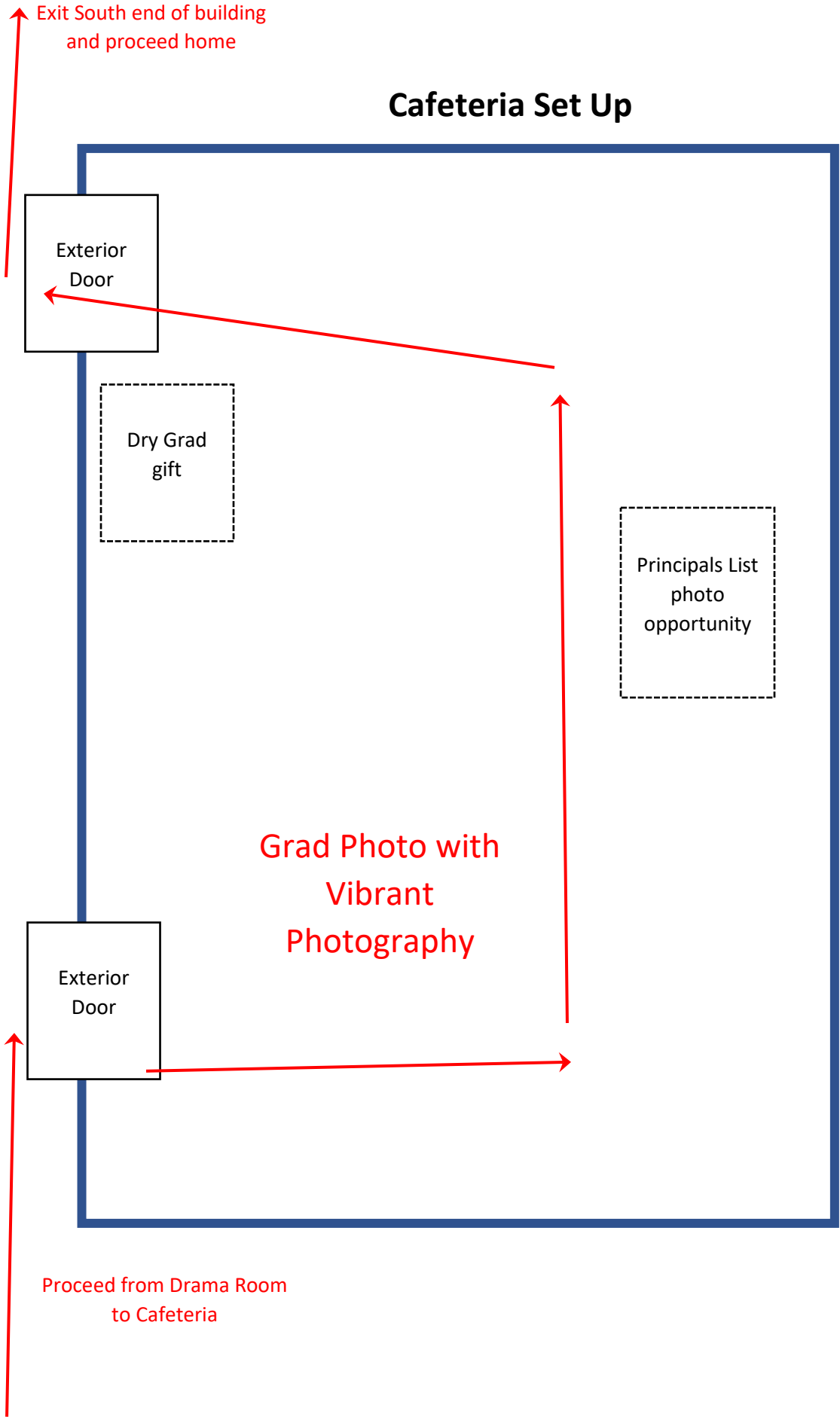
Red Carpet Photo
Opportunity in foyer of the school while in line

Staging Area A
Line up with your max of four family members, 2 metres from the group in front of you

Drama Room



Cafeteria Set Up



Instructions

1. We ask that all students and families follow the COVID protocols that are established for student, family and staff safety.
2. Please arrive 30 minutes before scheduled Grad Walk time with a **maximum of four guests**. A reminder of our provincial guidelines:
 - a. Only the individual student, their guests, and staff running the ceremony are present:
 - b. Max. four guests allowed per student. For indoor ceremonies, guests should be members of the students' household(s) or someone who lives on their own but regularly interacts with the occupants of the household(s).
3. Please enter the Staging Area A and follow the directions of our staff for your scheduled time slot or for instructions from the security. Please maintain physical distancing from other families.
4. As families pass by the foyer, there will be an opportunity to take photos.
5. After you have completed your photos in the foyer, please proceed to Staging Area B through the courtyard.
6. Please ensure you are in the alpha order of students in Staging Area B. There will be staff available to assist.
7. From Staging Area B students proceed to the Grad Stage Walk.
8. When it is time to enter, one or two parent/guardians will enter first and wait on the far side of the stage. [Please see the video example here.](#)
9. Any other guest(s) can join on stage or, move to the photo area to capture the stage walk with a photo or video of their own.
10. On cue, the Graduate will cross the stage as their Stage Walk Narrative is read by a staff member. The Graduate will cross to the parent who will hand over the diploma, move the tassel and the Graduate and parent will proceed off stage into the hallway.
11. The family will proceed, maintaining physical distance from any other students in front to the Cafeteria.
12. In the cafeteria, Vibrant will take Grad photos.
13. Graduate will receive a package from the Dry Grad committee.
14. Family will exit the building a proceed directly home. There will be security on site to ensure that there is no congregating in the parking areas.

The schedule for the graduation ceremony is as follows:

Start		End	Thursday
Abou-Haidar	to	Ayupova	1:00pm
Bae	to	Barratt	1:15pm
Bateman	to	Birovchak	1:30pm
Black	to	Boyd	1:45pm
Bradshaw	to	Buchan	2:00pm
Buchner	to	Canton	2:15pm
Carlson	to	Cherkas	2:30pm
Cheung	to	Copeman	2:45pm
Corapi	to	De Decker	3:00pm
Dean	to	Ding	3:15pm
Do	to	Edwards-Mullen	3:30pm
Ehly	to	Gan	3:45pm
Ganske	to	Gosal	4:00pm
Gow	to	Hallen	4:15pm
Hamilton	to	Henrich	4:30pm
Start		End	Friday
Holcik	to	Imtihaaz	8:15am
Ito	to	Jiao	8:30am
Johannesson	to	Kang	8:45am
Kasdorf	to	Kim	9:00am
Kirkpatrick	to	Ko	9:15am
Kong	to	Kwai	9:30am
Lacey	to	Lee	9:45am
Lewis	to	Lindsay	10:00am
Liu	to	Luu	10:15am
Ma	to	Mallakzadeh	10:30am
Mallett	to	McCarthy	10:45am
McCrinkle	to	McKenzie-Hora	11:00am
McKinley	to	Mills	11:15am
Mitchell	to	Mueller	11:30am
Mullin	to	Neufeld	11:45am
Ng	to	Nyaradi	12:00 noon
Ortiz	to	Pederson	12:15pm
Pestana	to	Purcell	12:30pm
Pyo	to	Roberts	12:45pm
Robertson	to	Salisbury	1:00pm
Samec	to	Sheepwash	1:15pm
Shepherd	to	Skakun	1:30pm
Smart	to	Starinieri	1:45pm
Stearn	to	Sweeney	2:00pm
Swiderski	to	Thorpe	2:15pm
Tickell	to	Usison	2:30pm
Van Grol	to	Watson	2:45pm
Wessel	to	Wickramaarachchi	3:00pm
Williams	to	Yang	3:15pm
Yao	to	Zwier	3:30pm