

June 8, 2020

Dear Grade 12 Student & Family:

The graduation committee of grade 12 students and staff advisors for the 2020 Grad Class of Central New Brunswick Academy have received approval from Anglophone West School District to move forward with graduation plans. Social Distancing and gathering restrictions have been priorities in our planning as per Public Health directives. As of June 5, 2020, the Premier and Chief Medical Officer upgraded our province to the third phase of recovery, the yellow zone. With this decision comes a change in restrictions for social gatherings where 50 or fewer people can gather outside or inside with physical/social distancing.

Since the beginning of our planning, the committee of graduates shared the desire of wanting to have a graduation celebration as close as possible to the CNBA graduation traditions, while also recognizing the limitations due to the required health restrictions. It was also made clear that they wanted to have the class graduate together, or at least on the same grounds at the same time. To achieve these two goals, the committee unanimously decided on a graduation ceremony that would combine a Grand March and the issuing of diplomas. In keeping with the restrictions placed on the number of people who can be inside or outside a building, the graduation events will take place outside in the school parking lot as a “drive-in” style. This format allows for each graduate to participate in the Grand March and receive his/her diploma on stage, albeit outside, with family present. Although families will be present, they will be required to remain in their vehicles, unless instructed otherwise. Each family will be allocated a space in the parking lot socially distanced from neighbouring vehicles. Parking spaces will be allocated upon arrival. We will try our best to ensure a good view of the stage area; however, cannot guarantee this will happen. Invitations will be issued to the graduate for a yet to be determined number of guests. This invitation will need to be presented at the front entrance to the school to gain access to the grounds for parking. This event will be for immediate family members only due to limited parking spaces available. It will not be open to the public. Information on number of guests per graduate will follow once parking lot layout has been established based on the 2-meter physical distancing requirements.

The McNamee Pentecostal Assembly located at 287 McNamee Rd, McNamee, NB E9C 2G9, is hosting a “drive-in” Baccalaureate Service for the CNBA Class of 2020 on June 14, 2020, at 11:00 a.m. The main parking lot will be reserved for one vehicle from each graduate’s family in keeping with physical distancing measures. There may be additional parking close to the church for additional family members. All participants will remain in their vehicles for the celebration to honour the CNBA graduates of 2020 as they prepare for their graduation ceremony and life’s journey ahead.

The Graduation Ceremony for the graduates of the class of 2020 from Central New Brunswick Academy will be hosted on June 18, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. Guest vehicles to the graduation must be parked in their dedicated spaces by 5:45 p.m. The ceremony will start at 6:00 p.m. sharp; therefore, guest vehicles will not be permitted to enter once the event begins.

The event will begin with the arrival of each graduate and escort in the bus circle. The couple, adorned in their formal attire, will exit the vehicle, pause for a photo opportunity, provided by a professional photographer, and proceed to a pre-determined route around the parking lot in “Grand March” style. The couples will be spaced at least 2-meters apart from other couples as they go through the parking lot. Once each couple has completed the Grand March, the escort will enter a family vehicle and the graduate will enter the gym, unless the escort is also a 2020 CNBA graduate. Once in the gym, each graduate will have a “bubble” 2- meters apart from others. At this time, graduates will put on their graduation gowns as each graduate walks across the stage for the awarding of his/her prizes/awards & diploma.

Notes:

- There will be two photographers taking photos of escorts & grads throughout the Grand March and when grads receive their prizes & diplomas. This will ensure you will have some nice photos. A collection of photos will be provided for you a few weeks after the event.
- Escorts chosen must be a from your bubble of family & friends.
- Modes of transportation chosen must be licensed for the road and driven by a licensed driver. Please choose a means that will not slow the procession as time will be a factor in getting through two events in one evening. An additional driver (who will not be attending the graduation ceremonies) will be required to take the mode of transportation from the school location, or remain in the parked vehicle (alternate location between the shop area and parking lot... lower driveway) for retrieval of the graduate after the ceremonies are complete. I need to stress that the driver once parked will not be exiting the vehicle to enter the parking lot where guests are located.
- Security will be on hand to assist with parking and highway safety.
- Congregating and observing from the front of the driveway and the hill will not be supported as that area is reserved for entrance/exit from the property, as well as grad & escort preparation for entrance. Only guests in vehicles with invitations will be able to enter the property.
- We are hoping to support family members with photo opportunities and/or a close viewing of the grad ceremony. This will be determined as we work through the details.
- It is so important for guests to remain in their vehicles as those outside of their vehicles count as our 50 people maximum in attendance. Planning is taking place based on the numbers we have participating. Additional people outside vehicles without permission could increase the numbers past 50, which would mean we are not abiding by Public Health directives.
- Invitations will be provided based on the number of vehicles permitted per graduate. Immediate family is the main consideration. Unfortunately, it must be this way to meet health standards.
- If able to exit vehicles, masks are recommended if you are not able to maintain 2-meter distancing.

- When putting on graduation gowns, those wearing suits, tuxedos or dress pants will put the gowns on over your clothing (minus a suit coat or vest perhaps). Those wearing dresses that would not fit under a grad gown will be provided with an area to change. Grad gowns & hats will be prepared based on height and in the gym ready with each student's name attached.
- Being a small, rural school, we are fortunate to be celebrating in this personal manner. Hosting an event outside is a risk when it comes to weather, so be prepared.... For unwelcome guests too.... Bugs.
- We ask you to be patient with us as we work through the various scenarios in following the Public Health directives. Special requests may not be able to be accommodated as per previous years due to the restrictions in place for large social gatherings. Correspondence will continue to come over the next few weeks updating you on various logistics. Please keep in mind that if circumstances change in our province, alternate plans will be put in place. We are in uncertain times, which keeps our staff on our toes to maintain the most recent health directives. When information is available, we will send an update to all grade 12 students and parents.
- More information will come as planning progresses. Please stay tuned to email and talk mail.

Stay well!

Barbara A. Long

Principal

Central New Brunswick Academy