



# ST. THOMAS MORE COLLEGIATE

HOME OF THE KNIGHTS SINCE 1960

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Tuesday, March 17, 2020

Dear Grade 12s and Families,

Today's announcement by the Premier of British Columbia and the Minister of Education respecting the indefinite suspension of all in-school learning to slow the spread of COVID-19 is particularly significant for the Grads of 2020. Rest assured that plans and contingencies are already being initiated.

### **Key Take-Away(s):**

The Premier and the Minister of Education today virtually repeated the same message that we shared with our Grade 12s at a grade-level meeting held with the entire Grade 12 class last Thursday afternoon...

**1. “[T]hat every Grade 12 student eligible to graduate this year will graduate”.**

There is a reason why Mr. Bouwman and Mr. Steele hound our Grade 12s to ensure that all the Transcript Verification Reports (TRVs) that we share with them are correct, and include all of the transcriptable courses they have taken. Assuming our students successfully complete all of the courses they are currently taking, we fully expect all STMC Grade 12s to graduate as scheduled!

**2. *Many of our Grade 12s have already started to hear from the Post-Secondary Institutions they have applied to for admission in the Fall of 2020.***

More and more of our students will continue to hear from the schools they applied to over the course of the next few weeks. Our Term 2 Marks were sent electronically to the Ministry of Education last week. In turn, if students have released their marks on the Ministry site, the post-secondary schools they applied to can now access those grades. Students own their own marks. Each individual student was/is responsible for authorizing their release. We are no longer in a position where we can go and track students down in a class. Mr. Bouwman has been doing that for far too long. Parents... we need your assistance to ensure that this has happened! Students who avoid doing this do so at their peril.

**IMPORTANT:** Mr. Bouwman sent the following message to ALL Grade 12s who have **STILL NOT** attended to this on Sunday afternoon...

*If you are receiving this email, it is because according to the Ministry of Education site you have not yet released your marks to all schools you have applied to.*

*Even if you have been accepted or sent marks to your schools of choice, you must still complete this process so that schools can verify your grades in August if not sooner.*

*I cannot make it any clearer. Get this done or it will become a problem down the road. Instructions on how to do this can be found in this Google Classroom. The link can be found below.*

<https://classroom.google.com/c/NDI2OTA4NjA3MDVa/m/NDc4MDk5NDIwMzIa/details>



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Mr. B

Please... All of our Grade 12s have signed up for the [Post Secondary Information for Grade 12's 2019-2020 for Grade 12's](#) Google Classroom. We now need your daughter/son to verify for you that this has been done.

**3. The Ministry of Education will also work with the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training and with post-secondary institutions on admissions and the smooth transition of graduating students in this extra-ordinary year.**

A precedent was set in the spring of 2014 – during the last Teachers’ Strike in the public system, where rotating strikes gave way to a full suspension of services in the early May of that year. Students were issued finals grades, and there was indeed a smooth transition to post-secondary for Grade 12s in that particularly extra-ordinary year.

**4. Grad '20 Mass... Grad '20 Breakfast... Grad '20 Ceremonies... Grad '20 Dinner-Dance... Dry-Grad '20**

TBD... Given the scope and magnitude of what we are dealing with... we simply do not know! While we are fully planning for these events to proceed, we are also looking at the strong possibility that they may look very different this year.

It obviously will not be business as usual as current realities lead to things looking very different from what we've seen before. Please hang in there! We love each and every one of you. Stay strong... More to follow! Mr. G

St. Thomas more... Pray for us!

Bless Edmund Rice... Pray for us!

Live Jesus in our hearts... Forever!

Yours in Christ,  
Steve Garland  
Principal - STMC