

To the Waterdown Class of 2021

Planning a graduation during a global pandemic is very challenging and entails that many strict Public Health protocols are adhered to. At Waterdown District High school we are working within the parameters laid out by Public Health to plan a safe, equitable, and celebratory way to honour the Class of 2021. While our preference would be to plan a traditional graduation and prom, our first priority must be safety. As a result, we will not be holding a traditional graduation this year nor a prom. All HWDSB high schools will be holding a Commencement that celebrates the grade 12 students in the Class of 2021. Commencements are more inclusive since you do not need to be graduating this year to attend. Due to the uncertainty of the public health measures being enforced at the time we are planning for both a virtual celebration and a Walk/Drive-Thru celebration model.

Please note that the following criteria will be in place for the Class of 2021 Celebration:

- No large gatherings permitted
- A celebration for **all** Grade 12s (Commencement not a Graduation)
- Virtual celebration **or** Walk/Drive-Thru celebration
- Professional Photographer will be onsite to take a photo
- Date: June 21-25
- Online booking system used to sign up for a specific date and time
- Valedictorian address will occur via a video broadcast
- Awards will be distributed at the end of June via mail

Each grade 12 student will receive the following from the school:

- Grad caps
- Grad lawn sign
- Special gift from the WDHS Staff!
- Photo taken at Commencement

Reminders:

- Be sure to submit your baby photo and grade 12 photo for the video/slideshow
- Voting for valedictorian closes May 21st (check the Guidance Class for details)
- Check out the Guidance Hub for Scholarship opportunities, deadline is May 25th

We will monitor the situation and provide more details as we get closer to the date. Please be sure to check the Guidance Hub for regular updates. The Class of 2021 is a very special group of students! We are so proud of how you have persevered through the challenges of Covid-19.

We look forward to celebrating your accomplishments with you!

Ms. Sgambato & The Commencement Committee