



VANCOUVER  
COLLEGE

Friday, May 1, 2020

Greetings Class of 2020!

I'm reaching out to you this morning to share our plans to celebrate your awesomeness and achievements. We will do as much as we can this spring and then follow up with a celebration in person as a community as soon as we are able.

I really feel for all of you and understand that you are extremely disappointed at the loss of this special time that is traditionally the highlight of your years at Vancouver College. As I've said since the beginning of the year, your group is one of character because there are so many unique personalities in the Class of 2020 and because your talents abound in so many areas.

We have already witnessed your many accomplishments throughout the past school year in athletic championships, artistic virtuosity, and the depth of your service to each other, the school community, and around the world. The highlight of this quarantine for me has been to see how your leadership skills have come to the forefront. Your student leaders have kept the community united, laughing, and engaged in innovative and creative ways. Your teachers continue to share stories of your wit, excellence, and perseverance despite heavy workloads and countless stressors in these unusual times.

We asked, we listened, and in working with the Student Council, Grad Committee and various faculty, we have formed a plan to celebrate you while respecting all health and safety guidelines.

Friday, May 15, 2020

This would have been your Grad Dinner Dance at the Hotel Vancouver. Let's continue with this celebration! We are inviting you to dress up, send us a photo, and connect with each other virtually. Dinner with your family that evening will be special and we, Faculty and Staff, will be thinking of you then. We have other things planned for that day to celebrate you; be ready to hear from us!

For now, we have postponed this event to Friday, August 28, 2020. With social distancing measures and maximum group sizes expected to be in place through the summer, we're afraid this new date may still be unlikely. We remain committed to postponing, but not canceling, a version of this event, even if that means it will occur at

a different venue and time, perhaps during Thanksgiving, December, or even next spring.

### Wednesday, June 16 - Friday, June 18, 2020

At this point, your schoolwork will be done, and you will be ready to graduate, so we would like to invite you back on campus. In our 98-year history, this will be our first-ever Drive-Thru Graduation Ceremony. Here is how we envision the celebration unfolding:

- Students will be invited on campus the first week of June to pick up grad gowns and caps in a way that is safe as prescribed by physical distancing guidelines.
- Between June 16 to 18, each student will be assigned to a group that will be given a one-hour time slot to walk across the stage located at the south end of the parking lot with O'Hagan Field as the backdrop.
- We extend this invitation to members of your immediate family so they may be a part of this momentous occasion.
- Over these three days, we plan to film and photograph all 149 graduates and provide each member of the Class of 2020 the opportunity to officially "cross the stage".
- As we anticipate this process to move at a steady pace, we will reserve a special time slot for those who may require more time or who may have mobility concerns.

Please find additional details for June 16 - 18 on page 3, and we'll send reminders by email as well closer to the date.

### Wednesday, June 24, 2020

This is a very special day - your Graduation Day!

We will livestream our traditional Graduation Liturgy, celebrated by our chaplain, Father Juan Lucca. We ask that you invite members of your family to join you in this liturgical celebration that culminates your spiritual journey at Vancouver College.

After mass, we will release the video of your official Graduation Ceremony which includes footage of diploma presentations as well as messages to you from the VC Administration, Faculty, and your own Valedictorian who will be selected in mid-May.

I know and understand that you never visualized your graduation unfolding in this way, but we felt it important to celebrate you, your achievements and character, and your distinctiveness as a class. We also wanted to provide you with at least one more opportunity to return to our campus, a place that will always be your home, and to walk across the stage in person as thousands of VC alumni have done before you.

I look forward to sharing further details with you as these special events unfold; do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions along the way.

Semper Fidelis,

Daryl Weaver

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## ADDENDUM

*Details for June 16 - 18, 2020*

- Each student will be assigned to a group that will be given a one-hour time slot to walk across the stage.
- Entering from the north end of the parking lot, your vehicle (with you and your immediate family) will be guided to drive towards the stage.
- You will be asked to remain in your car until it is your turn.
- In order of arrival, your name will be called and you will be asked to come up on stage to receive your diploma and honour cord for those who achieve this distinction.
- You will walk to the front of the stage where Mr. John Nixon and Mr. Johnny Bevacqua will congratulate you.
- You will then be prompted to move your cap tassel from right to left, as the traditional sign of your graduation.
- We'll have a videographer and photographers to record all of this.
- Once you have officially graduated, you will have two other photo opportunities: one of you tossing your cap and another with your family on a set off-stage.
- Before you leave, we have a special gift bag for you from the VC Alumni Association, VC Parents Association, and Vancouver College.
- You and your family will then head southbound along Hudson Street.
- Your commencement video will be available on June 24 after the Grad Liturgy.