



ST. ANDRÉ BESSETTE
CATHOLIC SCHOOL
— Put Yourself in God's Hands —

GRAD 2020 Update April 24, 2020

Dear graduating students and families,

Since the closure of our schools on March 15, 2020 we have been concerned about the impact that this new reality would have on our students. We, like all of you have been watching the media releases from the Chief Medical Officer and following the guidelines shared by the province and our EICS school division. We have also been thinking about how all these restrictions affect our plans for the graduating class of 2020.

Realistically, we will not be able to keep our planned graduation commencement ceremony and banquet for this coming June. However, we have created a plan in consultation with our student graduation committee. This is based upon the feedback from our parent survey and our lead staff which we wish to share with you:

- Friday, June 12 (time to be determined) we will host a virtual Year End St Andre Bessette Mass from OLA Parish and ask parish priests to extend a blessing for our SAB graduates.
- Saturday, June 13 at 1:00pm we will be offering a modified, vehicle-based commencement activity where we are planning a vehicle procession around the city followed by a “drive-thru” certificate presentation in our parking lot. The vehicle procession will follow a designated route past the grads’ previous schools and will have a police escort. Grads will ride in their cars with family members. Students would be given their own mortarboard and tassel to wear. This is an opportunity to decorate your vehicle and celebrate your achievements. Our socially distanced staff and priest will then present your with your certificate at SAB. There will be a chance for photos. We have reached out to local media and hope that the support of our Ft Sask community responds as we think they will with love and support along the route.
- We will also ask the City of Fort Saskatchewan to showcase our graduates names on their digital sign. We have also traditionally worked with the local paper to print the graduating class names and portraits. These acknowledgements will take place later in June.



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- From Monday, May 25 until Friday, May 29 we will open up online sales for families to buy up to 8 tickets for our planned September 18, 2020 Graduation Banquet and Dinner at the Edmonton Convention Centre.
 - **The ability to run this event is contingent upon:**
 - AHS Guidelines. We are hopeful that this event will proceed but we will continue to monitor the social distancing health guidelines throughout the summer.
 - Ticket sales. We MUST cover the cost of the venue. If ticket sales do not reach the financial target, the event will be canceled.
 - At this evening event we are looking forward to the traditional SAB grad group photo on the staircase, a shorter formal program followed by dinner and an entertaining dance.

If you have further questions regarding our plans please reach out to one of the following staff who can assist you:

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