



MARKHAM DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL

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October 26, 2020

Dear Graduate Student and Parents/Guardians:

As has been previously communicated, all YRDSB graduations for the 2019-2020 school year were postponed until the Fall of 2020.

While we had originally proposed different potential options to consider for this Fall, we are currently in a position where conducting them virtually is the only viable, safe option. Through consultation with York Region Public Health, and in the interests of the health and safety of our students, staff and families, we have been advised to avoid in-person gatherings. Regardless of social restrictions and limited numbers being considered for any face-to-face options, there is significant concern for the changing landscapes upon us (increasing COVID cases in schools, flu season approaching, mixing of cohorts at any Graduation Ceremony).

As a result, all schools in the YRDSB will be developing Virtual Graduation ceremonies for all Elementary (Grade 8) graduates and Secondary (Grade 12) graduates from the 2019-2020 school year.

Markham District High School will be hosting their Virtual Graduation Ceremony for the Class of 2020 on Wednesday, November 25th, beginning at 7:00 pm. More specific details about the format and online platform will be sent out later next month.

Students will be asked to pick up their Graduation Packages (Diploma, Transcript, Awards, etc.) and Yearbooks (if previously purchased on School Cash Online) at MDHS in the Blue Zone (front foyer) on one of the following dates:

- **Thursday, November 26th – 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm or 4:00 pm – 6:30 pm**
- **Friday, November 27th – 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm**

We will be providing a refund to all students who purchased the Graduation Package (cap and gowns) earlier this year. This refund will be processed this week.

For those of you **who forgot** to order a yearbook, there are a limited amount left. Books are \$50 and **can be purchased on School Cash Online** with the following link:

<https://yrdsb.schoolcashionline.com/Fee/Details/178852/72/False/True>

You will **NEED** to go to the link and purchase the book; once you have done so, your book will be added to your Grad Package. There are only 40 books available so it is first come, first serve.

If you have any further questions regarding the yearbook, please email Carey Howard at carey.howard@yrdsb.ca.

We appreciate how disappointing this news may be for graduating students and parents. While we continue our work to effectively plan within the conditions of the current pandemic, we will continue to maintain the safety of our students, staff and community as our utmost priority.

If you have any questions regarding the planning for Graduation ceremonies, please contact Vice-Principal, Georgia Clifford at georgia.clifford@yrdsb.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Coretta Sampson".

Coretta Sampson
Principal