



Monsignor Haller Catholic School

118 Shea Cres, Kitchener, Ontario, N2E 1E8

(519) 519.579.1230

<http://haller.wcdsb.ca>

May 27, 2021 **June 11, 2021 Updates**

Dear Grade 8 Graduates & Families:

It is disappointing that we cannot offer our traditional graduation mass and ceremony again this year, but we think we have planned something special to celebrate the wonderful people you are and all of your accomplishments in your final year at Monsignor Haller.

Please see below for the outline of our very detailed plan. For the health and safety of everyone involved, we ask that you and your family members read and follow the plan very carefully.

- ❖ The graduation will take place at the school on **Thursday June 24 from 5:00pm-6:00pm.**
- ❖ Access to school property is prohibited to anyone who is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 or has had close contact with a confirmed case. All individuals must complete the self-assessment tool prior to arrival: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment/>.
- ❖ In lieu of a graduation mass and ceremony, all students will graduate in procession style at school and then all will receive a link to a virtual graduation video. The virtual Graduation Ceremony will include pictures/videos/messages, recognition of our graduation award recipients, and of course our traditional diploma ceremony with staff members introducing each student. Mrs. Rice has worked hard to put this together, and in Haller style, many staff were keen to help in any way possible. We hope you enjoy this very special keepsake. The video link will be shared with families at 6pm on June 24th.
- ❖ Although we have been unable to take advantage of all the facets of school life in the past 2 years, the grade 8 teachers have considered the skills and gifts students have brought to Monsignor Haller in the intermediate years as well as throughout their time here to determine the recipients of this year's Graduation Awards.
- ❖ We encourage families to sit down and enjoy a meal together, or gather to celebrate and view the Award Ceremony together once it is sent virtually at 6pm.

Graduation Procession:

- ❖ Mrs. Rice and Mrs. Hunter along with staff will be present outside the front of the school and will adhere to the COVID19 physical distancing guidelines and masking guidelines. Parents and students are asked to follow the most updated COVID protocols.
- ❖ Upon arriving to the school (between 5pm-6pm) parents and students must wait in their vehicle/or the sidewalk until the front entrance is clear before approaching.

- ❖ **One at a time**, each graduate will make their way through our mini procession at the main entrance (begin at the bottom of the sidewalk nearest the parking lot and walk up the school path).
- ❖ At the front doors each graduate will be received and be handed their diploma, memento of the 2020-2021 year (a lawn/window/bedroom sign), and a gift bag containing Haller Swag. All items the students are receiving will have been quarantined and handled with gloves.
- ❖ **Immediate family only** (parents and siblings) may approach the front doors behind the graduate for a photo opportunity; or wait at the bottom of the pathway at the sidewalk.
- ❖ Each graduate may pose for a quick photo as they pick up their items from the table. Staff will be happy to take a photo for you.
- ❖ In order to complete our event, we ask families to respect the COVID protocols and allow for the flow of graduates to move quickly and safely through the procession.
- ❖ As soon as you have picked up your items, you and your family must exit school property and away from the school. There should be no gathering in our parking lot or on Shea Crescent in groups. Arrangements for gatherings that individual families/friends may make are to be enjoyed elsewhere.
- ❖ You are encouraged to wear your grad outfit (if you had already bought one) or your “Sunday Best”. This is a special occasion -so let’s celebrate!
- ❖ If any family does not feel they can participate during this dedicated timeframe, or feel uncomfortable participating during COVID, please let the school know as soon as possible. We will make alternate arrangements for you.
- ❖ Class Economy and Kindness prizes will be announced and delivered Friday June 25th & graduation awards will also be delivered on June 25th. ***June 11 Update: Students will come to the school on Friday June 25th from 1-3:30pm for a dedicated time for them to say goodbye and to pick up their report cards, belongings, awards and to drop off any library books & devices.**
- ❖ June 25th will be an Asynchronous learning day with assignments posted; Mrs. Rice will be making visits to drop off awards. ***June 11 Update: ALL students are asynch on June 25, June 27 and June 28.**
- ❖ If it is raining, families may walk up to the main entrance to receive the graduation packages inside the front doors.

Just a reminder regarding the purchase of grad photos, see information below;

Due to the current closure of schools to in-person learning Lifetouch will be distributing digital access codes to view your grad proofs online.

To retrieve your access codes please complete the following form:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfPZRl0uUeyoQnE4cj9w0HTs6SrKekbNBS3j9o0T-YitRH0cA/vj_ewform

Once completed, a Portrait ID and Access code will be sent to the email address you provided. Those codes, starting with the Portrait ID can be entered into my.lifetouch.ca to view your pictures and make any purchases.

Packages must be ordered online and **can not** be shipped to the school for pickup. All orders **must be sent to your home address** and will incur a standard shipping charge. Pictures are available to order for up to 9 months on the website and 12 months by contacting customer service.

If you have any questions or concerns about the process please contact customerservice_canada@lifetouch.ca or **1-866-457-8212**

Once again, we ask that you adhere strictly to the plan that has been outlined. Not only is it in keeping with Ministry, School Board and Public Health guidelines for the health and safety of everyone who comes onto school property, varying from the plan in any way could lead to personal liability risk for our staff. Plans are subject to change should guidelines change.

We look forward to seeing you all on June 24th to celebrate our awesome Grade 8 Graduates!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Rice and Mrs. Hunter