



# J. A. WILLIAMS HIGH SCHOOL

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Re: Convocation Ceremonies for the Graduating Class of 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Students:

Graduation is an important milestone for our students and one we look forward to celebrating as it marks the culmination of many years of hard work, commitment, and sacrifice. Given the current medical direction prohibiting large gatherings, Northern Lights Public Schools has made the difficult decision to cancel all of the high school graduation ceremonies scheduled to take place between now and the end of June.

However, that does not mean that the achievements of our students will go unrecognized. J.A. Williams School is still considering alternate opportunities to recognize our students' achievements and celebrate this important milestone in their lives. As it stands now, we do not know if schools will be able to hold ceremonies in the Fall, but if restrictions on gatherings change, we hope to have a celebration in whatever limited capacity new guidelines will allow; our plan is to hold it no later than November 14, 2020. What that looks like may be different than what was originally planned and will have to take into consideration any recommendations from the Chief Medical Officer of Health and Alberta Education that are in place at that time.

As we still have hope that we will be able to hold a formal graduation ceremony in the Fall, we are requesting that all parent/student groups who were planning celebrations to accompany convocation please postpone making any decisions about what to do with funds that were raised, and please delay making any alternate arrangements for celebrations until the Fall when we have determined whether or not ceremonies can be held at that time.

One of the things Northern Lights Public Schools will be doing is ordering caps and tassels for all students. We will provide more details for you once they have been confirmed. Our school will also begin working on a digital recognition of our graduates, though our staff will have to work through FOIP restrictions and may need to contact you for assistance and permission to use certain images. That said, even if we have a digital recognition of some kind, the school will still be looking at the possibility of holding graduation ceremonies in the Fall if the restrictions on gatherings change.

While this decision may not come as a surprise, we know that doesn't make it any easier to hear. We want you to know that despite the circumstances we find ourselves in right now, we want to celebrate this significant milestone for our students and make it as memorable and special as the situation allows. We appreciate all of your support. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to our administration team at the school.

Conal Donovan  
Principal

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*Working together to help every student learn and excel.*