

May 28, 2020

Dear Graduates,

Thank you for sharing your ideas about how to celebrate graduation and respect physical distancing. Your input was used to shape the “Capping Off 2020” plan for graduation celebrations. Here is what you can look forward to:

- **Graduation Caps** – we heard your requests for caps and every graduating student will receive a graduation cap/mortarboard in June. Caps are an important symbol of your accomplishments and a necessary element for your graduation celebrations and photo ops! Stay tuned for more details about distribution – we are aiming for the third week of June.
- **School Grad Signs** - A “Congratulations Class of 2020” sign will be installed at your school. The signs are designed with your school colours and logos. The signs are scheduled to be installed the first week of June and will be up for the whole month. The signs are a great place to get a photo of you in your cap – but please remember to stay safe and ensure appropriate physical distancing rules.
- **Grad Swag** – We heard your requests for grad swag - every graduating student will receive a baseball cap and a pennant celebrating the Grads of 2020. Stay tuned for details about distribution later in June.
- **School Websites** – A Grads 2020 web page will be added to your school website to celebrate the graduating class. This is a place for photos and messages. If you do not want your grad photo to be posted to the website, please notify the principal of your school.
- **Social Media Posts** – we can’t wait to see your photos and social media posts! If you have grad messages that you want the school and district to re-post/share, please use the hashtags #cappingoff2020 and #ocdsb and tag your school. We will re-post and share these on school and district accounts.
- **Exit Outcomes - Reflecting on your Accomplishments** – we’re interested in hearing about your time as a student and are inviting your reflections on what you have accomplished and your plans for your future success. Remember our Exit Outcomes? We love to hear your stories about the characteristics and skills that you have developed over the past 12 years. Do you have a story about Critical Thinking Skills? How do you express your Creativity? When are you most Innovative? An example of Resilience? Can you share how you have put Global Awareness into action? Are you digitally fluent?
- **Get Yourself in the News** – the Ottawa Citizen and Ottawa Sun are putting together a special graduation section - #OTTGRADS, inviting students to share their grad outfits, photos and speeches online, on their

social media channels and in special Citizen print sections on June 18, 19 and 20. To be included in the print editions, the deadline for submission is June 12. If you want to participate, tag @ottawawcitizen on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter or TikTok or email them at [online@ottawacitizen.com](mailto:online@ottawacitizen.com). They are also looking for grad speeches, valedictory speeches, or a short paragraph describing your hopes for the future. Use the hashtag #OTTGRADS – and add #OCDSB as well.

We are heading into the month of June and we are excited to celebrate with you. It's a different kind of year, but we are excited to celebrate your success.

Be well and be safe,  
Camille Williams-Taylor  
Director of Education

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