

May 27, 2021

Convocation Scenario Update

Chinook Grads and Families,

With the recent return to In Person Learning announcement made by the province, we are excited to provide our graduates and their families an updated plan for convocation 2021. **Drive In Convocation June 18th, 2021 9:00 am-1:00 pm in Chinook High School West Parking Lot.** With just over three weeks to go before June 18th please take some time to go through the following information to help your family plan should your student be eligible to convocate with us this year. Please know that the Chinook High staff has been working hard, brainstorming, doing trial runs and making edits along the way to make this a meaningful and special day to not only mark a truly exciting milestone for our grads and families but to provide the important closure students need in moving forward beyond high school. We would also like to thank all the students and families who have reached out to offer kind words, thanks, and support throughout this process.

****Please be aware that these plans can be changed at any time due to emergent AHS regulations and/or weather****

Attire:

Please recognize that convocation is a **formal event**. Historically students wear the traditional cap, gown and stole to convocation. Recognizing the extraordinary circumstances again this year, we know there are some students who had special formal attire they were planning to wear to the gala that was cancelled this spring. It is with caution we have decided to again open this year's convocation for students to choose to wear either the traditional convocation attire OR what they had planned to wear to the gala event. We say 'with caution' because we realize that not everyone has formal gala attire for various reasons. We also do not wish to add any further financial burden or stress to families who feel they must now go out and purchase something. Based on what we saw last year, there was an even split of the traditional cap and gown or a mash up of the two.

Logistics:

We have worked very hard to coordinate the best possible scenario (five identical ceremonies) where all our graduates can participate in an event that allows them to be recognized in front of some of their peers, family, their advisors and other school staff; all while respecting the safety guidelines from Alberta Health Services. To do this, we have several things to consider. We need to follow current AHS guidelines for **in school activities** and listed at the end of this document. In addition to students who will be out of their cars, we must factor in the number of staff volunteers, parking attendants, speakers, and vendors who are running the events. We also learned last year that we cannot fill up our lot as it has an impact on the sight line of the people who will be watching from their vehicle.

To stay safe and on time, all attendees **must adhere to the following restrictions:**

- 1 vehicle per grad. Only standard vehicles will be permitted in the lot. **All occupants must be from the same household.** No limousines, RV's, trailers, or other large vehicles. These vehicles, or those without a grad in attendance will be turned away by parking attendants. Open vehicles will also not be permitted (bikes, motorcycles, convertibles with the top down).
- You must cooperate with parking attendants. **This is not rush parking.** To ensure vehicles are not obscuring other guests, all trucks, SUV's, vans, and larger vehicles will be directed to the back rows of the lot with standard sized cars directed to the front. Ensuring we stay on time; we will need to park and leave the parking lot in an orderly and timely fashion.
- Each guest must always adhere to remaining in their vehicles. No EXCEPTIONS. When called upon, **only grads** leaving their cars to head directly over to their advisor at the stage will be permitted out of their vehicle. Grads must then also return immediately to their vehicles after crossing the stage. All persons outside vehicles **must wear a mask.** Students will be permitted to remove their mask to cross the stage safely and replace it when returning to their car. Please note there are no washroom facilities available onsite.
- Parents/Guardians/Family/Friends, we understand you will likely wish to commemorate the occasion with photographs. Please know we will have Life Touch present to take a photo of your grad on the stage. These will be made available through Life Touch. This is no different than any other convocation we have hosted in the past.
- We ask that families please plan for celebrations and photos with friends and families off site if this is something you choose to do. In addition, with gathering restrictions and to keep traffic flowing, we ask that you do not take photos on or near school property on June 18th.

Ceremony Details:

We have just over 250 students convocating this year. To accommodate all logistics, we will be running five separate convocations, broken up by advisor groups, to ensure AHS in-school activities & gathering restrictions are honoured and that our lot can accommodate the vehicles coming in and out. Each ceremony is allotted 45 minutes. These 45 minutes take into consideration vehicles getting in and back out of the lot. **It is critical you are there on time.** We will be starting each ceremony on time. We ask that you remain in the lot for the duration of your scheduled ceremony. The ATB center north lot could be used as a place to park a few minutes before your grads scheduled ceremony but exiting the vehicle is not permitted. Please take time to go through the following schedule to find your grad's advisor to identify group number and time. We will be broadcasting the ceremony live on our **FM radio station 103.1 The Howl.** We ask that you tune into the radio station once you arrive as that is how you will be able to hear the ceremony.

Schedule- June 18th

****All students from each group will arrive and leave the parking lot at the same time. Each group has a gold and a red section to keep outside the car numbers low and appropriately spaced 2 metres apart****

Gold Section. These advisor sections will be the first group of grads to leave cars and head to their advisor by the stage. Wait to be called up by the Master of Ceremonies (Kevin Wood).

Red Section. These advisor sections will be the second group of grads to leave cars and head to their advisor by the stage. Wait to be called up by the Master of Ceremonies (Kevin Wood).

Group 1 9:00-9:45 Arrive 8:55 Depart 9:35		Group 2 9:50- 10:35 Arrive 9:45 Depart 10:25		Group 3 10:40-11:25 Arrive 10:35 Depart 11:15		Group 4 11:30-12:15 Arrive 11:25 Depart 12:05		Group 5 12:20-1:05 Arrive 12:15 Depart 12:55	
Advisor Section	# of Families	Advisor Section	# of Families	Advisor Section	# of Families	Advisor Section	# of Families	Advisor Section	# of Families
Tara	5	Ard	3	Kevin W	8	Scott	5	Raelyn	6
Bill	6	Josh B/ Stef	6	Taryn	1	Irene	7	Chantel	6
Alisha H	3	Bruce	5	Deanna	3	Kenny	5	Cam	4
Amanda	6	Shane	5	DeAndra	13	Riley	5	Victoria	4
Leta	6	Ali	6			David W	3	Alisha S	4
TOTAL	26		25		25		25		24
Advisor Section	# of Families	Advisor Section	# of Families	Advisor Section	# of Families	Advisor Section	# of Families	Advisor Section	# of Families
Lou	5	Jay	7	Steph/DaveM	7	Mike	1	Brad	7
Billy	4	Chris	5	Jackie	7	Sydney	5	Eva	7
Garth	3	Duane	3	Missy/Jessica	3	Jaclyn	8	Tammy	4
Matt	6	David O	4	Josh M	2	Grant	4	Kevin S	6
Neil	5	Nick	3	Cory	3	Ray	6	Janay	2
Rebecca/Shelby	2							Rebecca H	3
TOTAL	25		22		22		24		29

Staging and Parking:

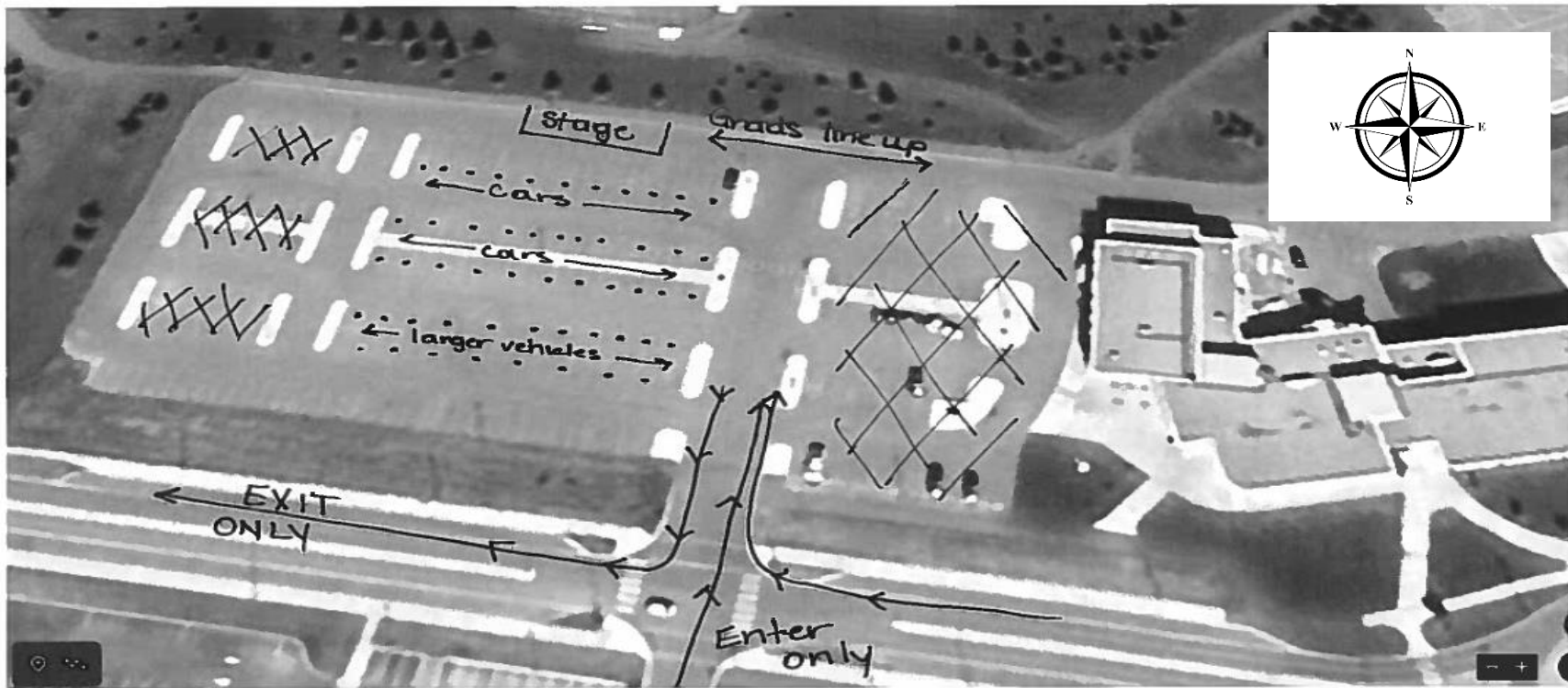
The stage will be in the middle of the north end of the lot. When it is time for grads to leave their cars and assemble by advisor, they will head to the east side of the stage to find their advisor and line up alphabetically- keeping a safe 2 meters apart. Please ensure that any students leaving their cars wears a mask.

We ask that you please be considerate and not idle your vehicle for the duration of the ceremony if possible.

Anyone **entering** the lot must enter either from the north lot at the ATB center or turn right into our lot off Britannia Blvd.

When **exiting** the lot, all vehicles must turn right and head west on Britannia Blvd and turn onto 30th Street West.

There will be parking attendants in both the intersection of our parking lot and Britannia as well as in our lot to direct you where to park. Parking spots have been marked out in advance.



Convocation Box:

If your grad's convocation fees were paid, you will receive a convocation box. Inside you will find all the items we normally hand out to students the day before and the day of convocation. Cap, gown, stole, tassel, diploma cover, school certificate and perhaps cards or letters teachers may normally give students or their advisees. In addition to these items, we are adding a keepsake program and a commemorative gold rock. To honour the tradition of our grads normally signing the big gold rock next to the west doors, this year we hand painted gold rocks for each grad and marked them to commemorate Chinook Grad 2021. This way, you get to take a piece of the school with you. We hope to be able to distribute convocation boxes from the school, by advisor, no later than Friday, June 11th. As we get closer to that date, we will be able to confirm pick up dates.

The Next Few Weeks:

To the graduating grade 12's, the best advice we can give while we wait for convocation is to focus on the things you have control over.

Firstly, your courses! Continue to engage in your classes and focus on course completion.

Self-care! Ensure you are getting enough rest and eat the best food choices you have access to.

Relax and enjoy these last few weeks! It's all going to work out wonderfully!

Connect with your advisor if you have not done so already to collaborate on your grad one-liner; the sentence or two that gets read when you cross the stage.

And naturally, if you have any questions, please reach out to your grad's advisor via Teams/email or contact the office directly.

All planning has been in accordance with AHS guidelines for *Drive In Events for Drive in Graduations* and *Celebratory Outdoor Events* issued May 17, 2021. Please understand that any/all of this could change any time due to AHS regulations and/or weather. We will do our best to keep you updated with any potential changes on our website

Congratulations Grads! We look forward to seeing you and celebrating with you June 18th!