



# SUTHERLAND SECONDARY SCHOOL

1860 Sutherland Avenue, North Vancouver, BC V7L 4C2 Telephone: 604-903-3500



April 27, 2026

Dear Grade 12 Students and Families,

As we move into the final weeks of the school year, I want to echo the message recently shared by the North Vancouver School District in its letter to graduating students and families. This is a meaningful and exciting time, and as a school community we are incredibly proud of the hard work, perseverance, and growth our Grade 12 students have demonstrated over the years.

Graduation represents both an ending and a beginning. It is a time to celebrate accomplishments, reflect on personal journeys, and look ahead to what comes next. We want every student to cross the finish line feeling proud, safe, and supported, and to leave our school on a positive note that reflects who they are and what they have achieved.

As highlighted in the District letter, this season often brings a number of non-school sanctioned grad activities across the North Shore. While we understand the desire to celebrate, we want to be very clear that activities such as Gotcha, Grad Kidnap, Grad Skip Day, car rallies, and similar events are not organized, supervised, or approved by the school or school district. Some of these gatherings can involve unsafe, inappropriate, or illegal behaviours, as well as lasting consequences, particularly in an era where moments are easily recorded and shared online.

It is also important to recognize that not all students choose to participate in these events. We encourage families and students to talk openly and honestly about expectations, choices, and safety, and to ensure decisions are informed rather than driven by assumptions or peer pressure.

At Sutherland, we want to ensure students clearly understand what the coming weeks will look like and how we can work together to make this a positive end to the year. Please note especially that all grad activities that are non-school sanctioned, are **not permitted to happen on school property at any time.**

Conversely, the school-sanctioned graduation celebrations we are looking forward to offering include:

**Graduation Ceremony**  
**Monday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026**  
**The Orpheum Theatre**

**Graduation Banquet**  
**Saturday June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026**  
**The Pinnacle Hotel Downtown Vancouver**

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Families are also invited to show how proud they are of their graduate with one of our 2026 Grad Lawn Signs, [available for purchase online](#) while quantities last.

Our shared goal is for students to stay engaged, attend regularly, and complete the year successfully so they can fully participate in school-based celebrations and graduation requirements.

We appreciate our partnership with families and your support of positive decision-making. Together, we can ensure the Class of 2026 finishes the year safely, proudly, and for the right reasons.

Sincerely,

Mark Barrett  
Principal  
Sutherland Secondary