

January 26, 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As you may have heard, British Columbia has updated its graduation program to include a requirement for an Indigenous course at the senior level (Grades 10-12). Students can meet this through a range of course options, including provincial Indigenous-focused courses; First Nations language courses; and Indigenous-focused, locally developed (Board/Authority Authorized or First Nation Authorized) courses. In Mission Public Schools, we are very pleased to offer the locally developed course *Téméxw Te í- (The Land of this Place) 12*, which satisfies this requirement, as well as many other provincial courses like English First Peoples or BC First Peoples 12. We especially appreciate the contributions made by local Indigenous knowledge keepers from the Nations, Leqamel and Sqewlets, as well as participating SD75 staff in the co-creation of *Téméxw Te í- The Land of this Place 12*. Students that have not completed school by September of 2023 will need to complete this requirement, although the total number of credits for graduation will stay the same at 80. Mission Senior Secondary offers dozens of classes between grades 10 and 12 that will fulfil this part of their graduation program. Additional information can be found here:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/kindergarten-to-grade-12/support/indigenous-focused-grad-requirements/indigenous-grad-req-parent-brochure.pdf>

I am excited and honoured to work in education at a time like this. Students are gaining access to history, knowledge, and wisdom that was previously hidden or disregarded. The new graduation requirement will allow all B.C. students to develop a deeper understanding of the experiences of Indigenous peoples in Canada, so necessary to our building a better future for all of us. If you have questions about the program in general, please reach out to me at angus.wilson@mpsd.ca; or, if you have specific questions about your child's progress and program, please contact the admin team at Mission Senior Secondary, Fraserview Learning Centre, or Riverside College. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Angus Wilson
Superintendent of Schools

EC J Pearce, Principal MSS/Mission Online
L Cummings, Principal Riverside College
T Nguyen, Principal Fraserview Learning Centre