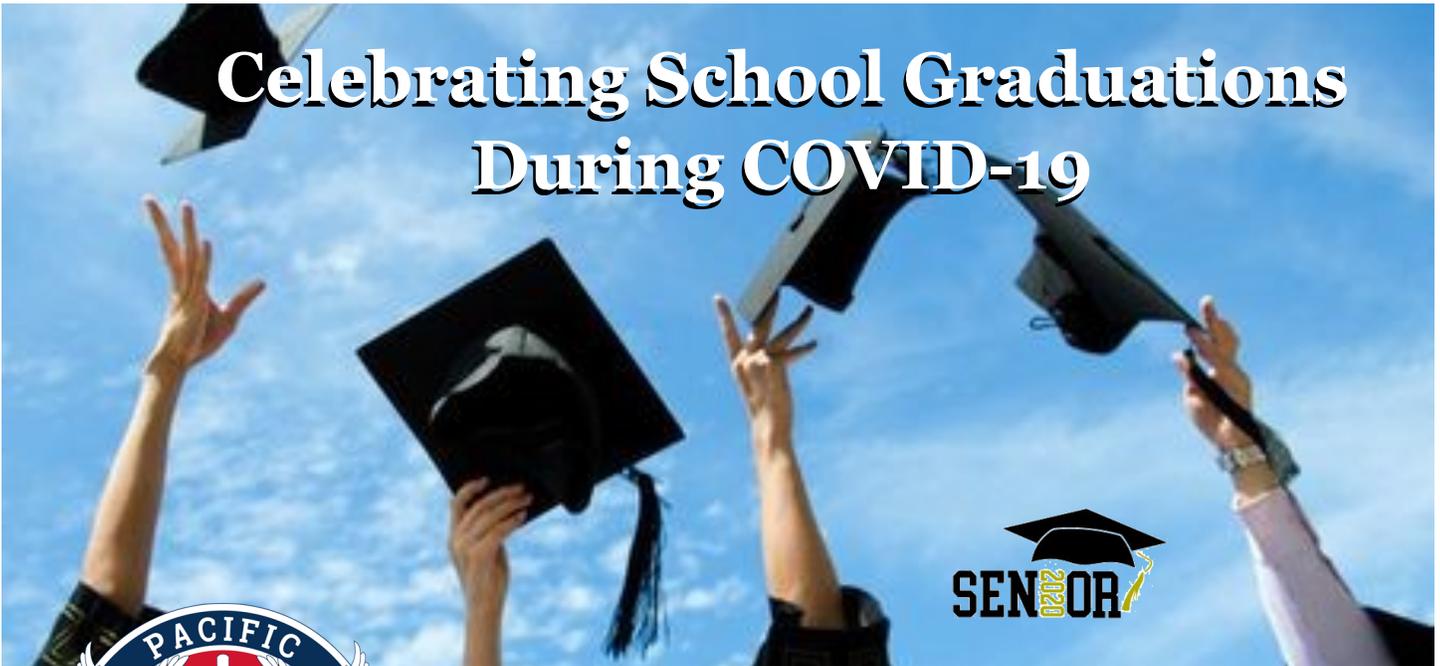


Celebrating School Graduations During COVID-19



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This will not look like our normal end of the year!

All ideas would be implemented in compliance with state mandates.

MY BEST SHARE FOR THIS TOWN HALL:



Join Facebook's "Global Educator Collective," look for "units" and scroll to the bottom to "End of the Year Ideas" (unit 13) . There are so many ideas that can be customized to your school. The ideas go on and on and on. . .



As we look to the end of the year, there can be a sense of grief as the celebrations that are so much a part of our school culture, our traditions, will not take place.

FIRST, take care of the spiritual, social, and emotional needs of the students.

1. Acknowledge the loss, and encourage students and parents to talk about it.
2. Ask God for wisdom to meet the spiritual, emotional, and social needs in our students, their families, our staff, and the larger school community. Pray with families.
(Max Lucado has posted some very good, short YouTube messages on grief.)
3. Do not pretend things will be the same; embrace the change. Ask God for creativity!
4. **INCLUDE SENIORS IN PLANNING THEIR EVENT, AS APPROPRIATE.**
5. Encourage students to reach out; we find joy in serving others. Complete a service project as a senior class. Use seniors to contact underclassmen and encourage them.
6. Make a book of favorite verses during COVID-19.
7. Consider combining as many “celebrations” as you can into one large event.
(We will combine our Senior Awards and Graduation events.)

SECOND, creatively decide how to celebrate.

Honor this class in ways you have not considered for other classes.

1. Yard/door signs for each graduate
2. Senior Magazine
3. Video of “final words” from each graduate as a keepsake
4. Senior favorite song lip-sync and/or acted out with all voices represented
5. Make a Mixbooks (or some other online book producing company) of kind words and pictures for each graduate.



Pick up graduation gowns

1. Seniors and/or families drive through the school parking lot with decorated cars to pick up cap and gown. Faculty with signs/etc., to greet them. Make it a fun atmosphere. Can a small, school musical group play? (6 feet apart of course!) Pictures taken with social distancing in mind. Cars parked in every other space in parking lot. Provide a lunch for the graduates.

Ideas for Senior Graduation

(could work for 8th grade graduation or K graduation)

1. Schools with smaller classes may be able to have more of a traditional graduation, with limited tickets and seating in family “pods.” Students could participate from their “pod.” Known songs and verses could be shared since time for practice may not be realistic. What might be allowed is unknown at this point, and will vary by state.
2. Schools could allow each graduate to receive their diploma in 15 minute intervals inside a venue or outside in a memorable setting.
3. Schools could hold a parking lot graduation. Parents/family in decorated cars with students receiving diplomas observing social distancing. The actual program could occur in front of the school or at another venue. Live streamed so all can see/projected on a large screen.
4. Teacher created video for each student—include memories, words of appreciation, and more.
5. After the ceremony, provide a school bag with memory items.



One last thought...

Some awards ceremonies are more for the parents than the students. Recognize the accomplishments of the students in a way that honors parents and their investment into the education of their children.