

Alternative Graduation 2020 Ideas

Jostens Renaissance Graduation Friday

Protect the Ceremony: Session 1 - 4/3/2020

"We are not cancelling graduation. It may be postponed, delayed, but it's not being cancelled." - Phil Campbell

Link to View: [Facebook Video](#)

Introduction

- Current seniors are missing the most special weeks of their year
- What is usually plagued by senioritis is now plagued by a want to be back at school with their peers and to have a sense of normalcy
 - Students are missing out on the *closure* element of the end of their senior year
 - Athletes are missing their final season, club leaders are missing their bigger productions, fine arts students are missing their last concerts and performances, CTE students are missing out on their ability to compete at the district, state, and national level
 - Events being missed: prom, senior skip day, senior trips, senior week, graduation
- Staff is also missing out on the closure of the year
- Emotions are high for students and their families

Ideas for Celebrating Seniors

- **Light up the Stadium**
 - One school is turning on the lights every Friday night at the stadium as a reminder to students that the school isn't forgetting about them/graduation, and "have the lights on for when they can come back"
- **Senior Spotlights**
 - Social media spotlights for each senior
 - Include their favorite teacher, favorite memory, what they'll miss, highlights
- **Decorate the doors of senior homes for "graduation week"**
- **Sign on the Line**
 - Virtual signing opportunities for students - not just athletics
 - Any postsecondary opportunity gets a signing experience

Ideas for Ceremony

- **Senior Parade/Drive Thru**
 - Staff line the streets in their regalia
 - Students wear their caps and gowns, fill the car with their family
 - Students/families drive down street
 - Pomp & circumstance playing, cheering, etc.
 - Could involve law enforcement as escorts
 - McMinnville PD reached out to MHS to offer their services for this type of event
 - **From Mac PD:** Consider making the parade route longer than you think it should be in order to allow for more community/family members to gather on street sides

- Consider starting all families at ONE location (parking lot, fairgrounds, wherever a “virtual” graduation could take place (video playing, audio speeches, etc.)
- From there, parade away from that location; create part of the route to go past landmark spots (downtown, high school building)
- Mark Brown (Newberg HS) is working on an idea like this
- **Consider closure for staff members, too**
 - Many staff love graduation and seeing their students succeed - how can we involve staff so they have that same sense of closure?
- **Can something physical be given to students to commemorate the experience?**
 - Physical touch can be powerful
 - Phil gives the example of students running out from the stadium at graduation and being able to “slap the tunnel” as they exit onto the field as a physical recognition that they’ve made it
 - What could be given to seniors to create a sensation of graduation?
- **Consider not all staff/students will be able to come back to a rescheduled graduation**
- **Staffuly Video**
 - Staff read the names of graduates in the graduation video
 - Compilation of student names/photos to replace walking across the stage
 - *At McMinnville HS, senior vote on which staff members they’d like to read names at graduation; this could be done similarly in video style*
 - Staff shouts out to seniors in a video
- **Employ the Yearbook** adviser and students to be very present and involved in the efforts of 2020 graduation

Potential/Draft Virtual Graduation Model

[Virtual Graduation Prezi](#) - Provided by Dan Peters, Jostens

Student Made Video

[Greene County Student Video to Class of 2020](#)

Video is a part of the presentation provided by Dan; extracted to share with student leaders

- Susy Sayles (McMinnville) shared this with senior ASB officers to see if they, or other senior students, would be interested in creating something similar

OASC Advisers Zoom Meeting

Tuesday, 4/7/2020

Topic: Graduation/8th Grade Promotion

- **Graduation Swag (caps, gowns, announcements)**
 - Many parents/families have questions about whether they should follow through with their cap/gown order - will it “really be needed?”
 - Could schools implement a buy back program? Use funds to purchase caps/gowns from students who don’t want them anymore
 - Creates a stash of resources for future graduating classes
 - Concerns about announcements - paying for them with the wrong information

- Jostens is offering free correctional inserts for announcements
 - Contact your graduation rep to see what they're offering in this situation
 - **Senior Swag Bags**
 - Create a tote bag full of a senior shirt, hat (students vote on style out of 2), bracelet
 - Drive through tote pick up
 - *Work with Grad Night program/group*
 - **Create a "Doomsday Team"**
 - Get many different parties involved on all elements of graduation so it's not being pulled together at the last minute - make it intentional
 - Senior ASB officers, parents, PTA, grad night committee - all work together!
 - **Senior Assembly Replacement**
 - Deliver cords to students, have them take video of putting on their cords, caps, gowns
 - **Senior Yard Signs**
 - "Senior Stuck Inside - Honk to say hello!"
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Protect the Ceremony: Session 2 - 4/10/2020

Link to View: [Facebook Video](#)

[Recap on Jostens Website](#)

Socially Distanced Senior Walk and Ceremony

- One-on-one entrances
- Think senior walk through the halls meets graduation ceremony in a gym or theater
- Paced walk-throughs by seniors and families – last trip through the halls
- Could hold signs with their plans for next year
- Walk through halls ends in gym or theater where paced distance remains, but each graduate gets the "walk across the stage" moment and family gets front row spot to take pictures
- Can play pomp and circumstance over the school intercom
- Pre-record speeches by principal and valedictorian and alma mater
- Cap toss can take place individually or as a group in an open space/field outside