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Senior Year Ended Too Soon.

For the Class of 2020, their Senior year will be memorable, but not for the right reasons. These students did not fully experience each rite of passage, school event, and all that year-end excitement. Those "tears of joy" are simply tears.

Seniors have earned the right to experience those tears and emotions.

COVID-19 should not take this opportunity away.

Grads missed out....

Senior Year Check List

- HOMECOMING**
- SENIOR DAY TRIP**
- HIGH SCHOOL MUSICALS & PLAYS**
- SPRING SPORTS SEASON**
- SPRING BREAK**
- CHOIR & BAND CONCERTS**
- PROM**
- GRADUATION**

But there are alternatives...

Consider... Virtual Committee

Create a committee of School Staff, Seniors, and Parents to *meet virtually and brainstorm ways to honor and celebrate your Class of 2020*. Seniors will appreciate having a part in the planning process.

Another idea is for Staff and Parents to come up with a couple of options your school is willing to explore first, and then survey your Seniors – let them choose!

We surveyed over 400 High Schools across the country.
Here are the **MOST COMMON IDEAS** we heard..

Consider... Set Multiple Dates

**#1
CHOICE
OF SENIORS**

Uncertainty is the keyword these days. Don't let Graduation fall into that category. Many high schools are choosing to keep their *original Graduation Date* and setting *one or two additional dates further out* in an effort to allow Graduates and their families to plan.

How It Works: Keep your original Graduation date. Then set a date 1 month later and another date 2 months later. Not able to do the original date? Push out plans for the 1 month later date. If that date doesn't work, push out your plans for the 2 month later date. Still can't do it? Try one of the other options from these pages.

Helpful Tips...

- Be Flexible
- Have A Backup Plan for Your Backup Plan



Consider... Parades

Each Senior rides in a vehicle with their family (Don't forget to decorate the vehicle to make it personal for each Graduate!)

- Hand out Caps, Gowns, and Tassels *prior to the parade date* or at the time of line up so Graduates will be dressed for the parade.
- *Publish a time and place* to line up.
- As each vehicle begins (or ends) the parade, Administration hands each student their Diploma as they drive by.
- Community members could line the streets. (Allow for a longer parade route than normal so there is acceptable space between well wishers.)



Visit Andersons.com for complete kit ordering information.

Make It Your Own...

Add Trim, Fringe, Festooning and more in your Graduate's favorite color to make the décor unique for him or her. Don't forget "non-traditional" decorations, like Face Signs, Car Magnets, and more. Visit Andersons.com for more ideas.

Make It Your Own...

In addition to traditional parade décor, give each graduate things they can hold or wave (Balloons, Small Flags) and/or write messages on side windows, the hood, or sides of the vehicle with Car Markers.

Helpful Tips...

- Buy Bulk Festooning & Fringe
- Make Announcements in Local Newspaper





Visit Andersons.com for complete kit ordering information.

Get Everyone Involved...

Honor your Class of 2020 with a “reverse parade” (see next page for details). Parade trailers, like the one pictured above, provide larger spaces for Superintendents, Principals, and Teachers to practice social distancing while congratulating the graduates.

Community Support is Important

Senior year is a big milestone. No matter how you celebrate Graduation, involving the community in any way will greatly touch every Class of 2020 student.

Make It Personal...

It's easy to find Stock decorating supplies or Complete Kits full of everything you need to decorate your vehicle at Andersons.com. The website has lots of budget-friendly décor that graduates will love. NOTE: Most Complete Kits come with instructions for easy assembly.

Helpful Tips...

- Have Kit Components Match School Colors
- Graduates Can Wave Bandanas or Pennants



Graduates Want Recognition

Consider... More Parade Ideas.

Reverse Parade

- Announce a *time and location* to the community and family members.
- *Graduates line the street*, allowing an acceptable Social Distance between each graduate.
- Each Graduate is dressed in their Cap and Gown.
- Community members, family, and friends can drive down the street honking, cheering, and sending well wishes to Graduates.

Consider... Drive-in Parking Lot Graduation

Helpful Tips...

- Try Local Fair Grounds
- Hand Out Diplomas as Cars Leave

- Graduates and families arrive at a Parking Lot or Drive-in.
- Everyone remains in their cars.
- Encourage families to *decorate vehicles* to celebrate the Graduate.
- Secure a *Radio Station* to broadcast commencement speeches and announce names of graduates.
- Graduates stand outside the car after speeches while everyone honks, cheers, or yell their well wishes.
- Have Staff Members on hand to *deliver each graduate's Diploma* to their car.
- Announce the Class of 2020 and toss the Caps.

Consider... Outdoor Commencement

Consider holding Commencement in an outdoor area that allows for plenty of Social Distancing.

- Restrict guests to just the Parents of each Graduate to limit the number of people present.
- This allows for Graduates to have the experience of their name being called, walking across a stage, and receiving a Diploma in front of their friends and parents.
- Large graduating class? Smaller outdoor space?
Hold *multiple events* over the course of several days.



Consider... Virtual Graduation

Helpful Tips...

- Encourage Graduates to Dress Up
- Ask A Student Musician to Play the Intro Music

If a large gathering of Seniors is NOT an option this year, organize a Virtual Graduation. One of the best ways to do this, and keep the cost down, is to *use Zoom*.

- Share the link for the meeting (aka Commencement) with friends, family, and community members.
- Have Seniors wear their Cap and Gown, and log into the Virtual Commencement from home with their family.

Begin with “Pomp and Circumstance” by Sir Edward Elgar for intro music.

Plan Commencement Speeches as you normally would.

- Valedictorian
- Principal
- Guest Speaker
- Class President

Read each Graduate’s name aloud allowing time for family to honor their special graduate between names.

- Put together a slide show of Senior photos to play while each name is announced.

Announce it is time to turn the tassel (right to left side) in unison.

Have each Graduate toss their Cap and announce the Graduating Class of 2020!

Does a Virtual Program seem overwhelming? There are companies that can assist and guide you through the process. Check out **StageClip.com**



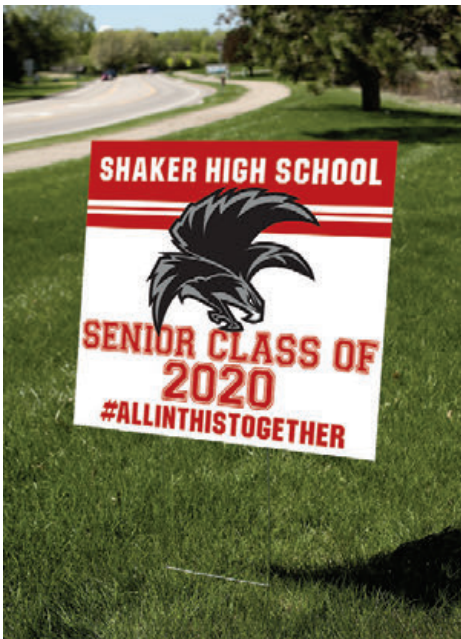
Consider... Drive Thru Graduation

- Set up a Stage or Backdrop outside or use a large indoor space.
- Create a *Schedule by last name* for students to come to the school individually.
- Students either arrive in their Cap and Gown or you can hand out the Cap and Gown when each student arrives.
- Administrators can hand each Graduate their Diploma while family is snapping photos.
- Have a photo op area for families to take pics of Seniors with their favorite Teachers, Principal, family, etc.



Visit Andersons.com
for complete Backdrop information.

Consider... Yard Signs & Other Announcements



Visit andersons.com for complete ordering information.

We have heard many communities are able to fund these Yard Signs through donations from community members, families, and local businesses. Yard Signs are a great way to recognize all of your Seniors.

Helpful Tips...

- Write A "Congratulations" Message on A School Sidewalk in Chalk
- Publish a Graduation Ad in Local Newspaper



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Consider... Class Rings

Students across the country that are part of the Class of 2020 will always have a special connection; their graduating class will be an inevitable part of history.

- A *Class Ring* commemorating 2020 is a keepsake Seniors can pass through generations.
- This program can be as simple or as detailed as you want it to be.
- The most popular option is:
 - Choose Ring Size
 - Choose Stone Color
 - Add School Mascot to one side
 - Add 2020 design to other side
- NRP makes it easy! They can collect Ring Sizes and Stone Colors for each student *via an online form* and get them in production within a couple days.



**10% OFF
ALL RINGS**
use code:
NRP10AP

NRP is a "Best in Class" Anderson's Partner!

visit www.nrprings.com to get started.

Consider... Stock or Customized T-shirts

There are many T-shirts being featured all over social media with COVID-19 inspired designs:

Class of 2020 – Worst. Ending. Ever.

Seniors 2020 –

The one where they were quarantined.

Class of 2020 – Senior Skip Day Champions

Create your own T-Shirt--it's one more way to get your Seniors involved this year! Have your Senior Officers choose a design that includes your School Name.

We have a selection of *Stock Design T-Shirts that can be worn as is*, *Customized Shirts that feature your School Name*, or you can *submit your own design*.

Visit Andersons.com
for complete T-Shirt information.



Stock Design
T-Shirt

T-Shirt customized
with high school name

For the Class of 2020

In the fall of 2019, Seniors left their homes
Ready for an awesome year filled with milestones:
Homecoming games, coronations, semi-formal dances.
Sports, clubs, band, choir, and maybe first romances.
GPA's. SATs. Tournaments and Internships.
Driving. College Tours–Apps, and Scholarships.

A new decade dawned, full of promise and anticipation
for lots of events like Prom, Senior Party, and graduation.
Just weeks into this bright new year plans started to crumble,
And Seniors' dreams, wishes, and emotions took a tumble.
With one little virus things changed and were up-ended.
Senior year halted and school years were suspended.

For this Senior class, 2020 is changed forever.
Rest assured when we say we'll get through this together.
We know it hurts. We acknowledge your grief
for the milestones and experiences, however brief.
We understand your tears—especially over graduation.
It's time to celebrate your hard work with congratulations.

This quick guide of ideas is designed just for you.
We hope it helps a little to get you all through.

Kristine Richards, 2020