

Ohio School Safety Center

Newsletter
Spring 2021

Creative Graduation Celebrations

2021 graduation ceremonies are quickly approaching. As [Covid19 guidelines](#) evolve, the OSSC looked back into 2020 for innovative practices from around the State. Simply put, the creativity of Ohio schools is amazing. From drive-ins to drive-thrus to virtual ceremonies, graduating seniors received their diplomas despite challenging times. Kudos to all those who contributed to this article, and to those whose stories remain untold. No matter how it was celebrated, the goal for all was the same - to provide the best experience possible to honor Ohio's graduates.



13WGME News)

Drive-In: Several **Cincinnati-area** schools hosted their graduation ceremonies at the Starlite Drive-In Theatre. Although this location was accustomed to hosting large events, Covid-19 required additional creativity. Each ceremony admitted three hundred cars and bigger graduating classes held more than one ceremony. To adhere to social distancing guidelines, cars parked between speaker posts to maintain six feet of distance. For some, a live feed of the ceremony even played on the big screen. (Image by

Drive-Thru: Cincinnati Public Schools held their graduations outdoors with the help of their Emergency Command Vehicle. Utilizing the vehicle's PA capabilities and sweep out awning, school staff were able to maintain social distancing while handing out diplomas to students as they drove by. The ceremonies were also featured on local news programs.

Drive-Thru: Monroe High School held a drive-through graduation ceremony on the high school campus. Each of the 206 graduates were assigned a time slot for an individual graduation ceremony. Beginning at 8:00 a.m. and running through 8:00 p.m., the staggered time slots allowed families to park their vehicles and have a front-row seat to their senior's walk across the stage. After receiving diplomas, graduates drove off campus under a balloon arch lined with Monroe teachers and staff. The high school also shared a video with messages from the principal, valedictorian, salutatorian, and fellow graduates. *"Even though we could not gather as a Hornet Family for one final time, I was truly grateful our seniors were able to cross the stage to give our parents and seniors a truly unique and special personalized graduation experience,"* Monroe High School Principal Tom Prohaska said.

Mobile: Winton



Woods created a mobile graduation for their seniors. Using buses with banners as large rolling billboards, staff went door-to-door to congratulate seniors and deliver diplomas. The school also partnered with a local TV station to pre-record a high-quality, professional graduation ceremony that aired on local television. (Image by Winton Woods)

Virtual: Hoover High School honored their seniors with a high-quality video graduation ceremony. Opening with the school band playing “Pomp and Circumstance” and the school choir singing the National Anthem, the video honors each graduating senior with a virtual walk across the stage or senior photo. (Image by Hoover High School)



No matter how your school chooses to celebrate this year, the OSSC team applauds the graduating class of 2021 and looks forward to hearing about all of the new adventures and achievements that lie ahead. The OSSC encourages schools to stay up to date on guidance from the [Ohio Department of Health](#) and [Ohio Department of Education](#) when planning graduation activities for 2021.