



It's Graduation Time

Harry and Rosemary Wong

Graduation traditions vary, but customarily the person who is graduating walks into a ceremony wearing a square, academic cap with a tassel and long, solid-colored gown.

Senior Walk



The seniors at Van High School in Texas share the spotlight with graduating kindergarten students.

Senior Walk is a newer tradition being adopted at more and more high schools around the nation and even in Singapore. It involves graduating high school seniors donning their caps and gowns and walking down the halls of elementary or middle schools in their community. The seniors are greeted and cheered on by former teachers, administrators, parents, and current students of their alma maters.

Not only is this a reminder to graduating seniors of how far they've come, but it serves as an inspiration to younger students—an example of what they, too, can achieve. Senior Walk is an opportunity for students of all ages to come together in celebration of each other's accomplishments and potential and help young students visualize their future success.

Graduation Begins in Your Classroom

At the end of each school year, **Amy Harris**, who teaches in North Carolina, puts her cap and gown on each one of her kindergarten students and takes a graduation day picture.

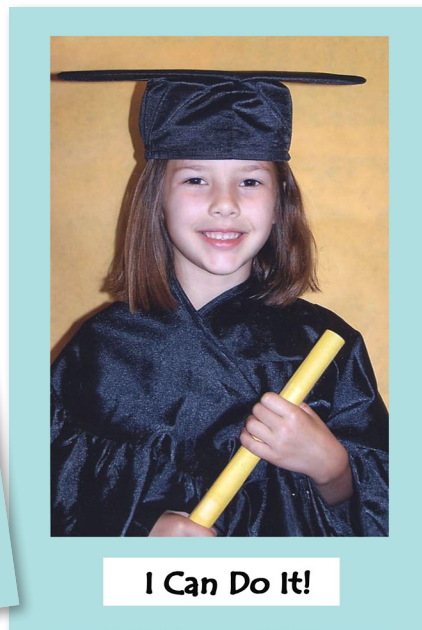
It's Graduation Time (continued)



When students leave Amy's kindergarten class, they have a vision of what they will look like when they graduate from high school and from college.

A “graduation address” is delivered to her students along with the presentation of the plaques.

During the school year Amy continues to talk about college and lifelong learning as well as what life will bring. The students “reflect” on how they are growing up—what works and what doesn't. At the end of the day she often says, “Let's reflect on our day. Ask yourself, what went really well, and what can I do tomorrow to make it better? Tomorrow is a new day and I can't wait to see you!”



The Class of Tomorrow

Amy says, “I love my job!” And her students love the high expectations and self-fulfilling prophecy she has for them.

Is there an end-of-year practice you can employ that will offer hope and dreams to your students?

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