

# Graduation Recommendations

Principals at Santa Barbara HS and Carpinteria HS have asked what to do about graduation, and these are our recommendations. It's important to remember that graduation is a time of celebration and not a memorialization of the deceased student.

1. The family should be consulted about whether they would like to receive their child's diploma, and if so this would happen
2. A school administrator should address the student death early on in the ceremony (after introductions). The idea is that students and family will be wondering how you will address the deaths and doing it upfront will relieve the tension around the subject. It also allows the students and parents to take a moment to breathe, then to move on to celebrating their accomplishments. The message should be one of solidarity in the community, sorrow for the family and friends, and acknowledgment of the resiliency, caring and compassion of the students. If the family wishes, they receive the diploma at this time.
3. No to things like: empty chair, calling the student's name during the walk, try to encourage students not to wear t-shirts or write the decedent's name on their hats, etc...
4. It is permissible to include student's names in the program list of graduates, if the parents agree. No embellishments should be used.

# Memorial Recommendations

We always recommend that no permanent structures be put into place. This includes things like a bench, a tree or a plaque.

Mr Cornejo asked about a mural that his students want to place in the school for a few days. While this falls outside of normal recommendations, we've agreed that it could be helpful for his students with the following considerations:

1. The students come up with a positive message to place near the mural
2. We don't put the student's name on the mural itself
3. The mural is displayed for less than a week and is not a permanent installation