

RENAISSANCE STAFFULTY IDEA #501:

HONORARY DIPLOMAS



School type:
 High School

Activity goal:
 Recognize staffulty who have contributed to the success of graduating seniors

Prep time:
 15 minutes

People required:
 Staff to create diplomas and coordinate with senior and staffulty schedules for the presentation

Space requirements:
 N/A

Timing:
 Spring of student's senior year

Materials:
 Honorary Diploma, student's cap and gown

Cost:
 N/A

Submitted by:
 Samantha Grimes, Greenbrier High School, Greenbrier, TN

OVERVIEW

Allow graduating seniors to give an honorary diploma to any teacher or staff member throughout their school experience who has made an impact and helped them graduate.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Have students choose one adult who had a significant influence on their school experience and graduation, and write a letter to that staffulty member explaining their impact.
2. Ask students to complete a form that explains the tradition and guidelines (including who is eligible) and to provide the teacher's name and school and what the student intends to say. Emphasize that it is a special ceremony and will be treated as such.
3. Create a standard Honorary Diploma or edited template with school and student information. Examples of these documents can be found at JostensRenaissance.com/idea-exchange/honorary-diploma/.
4. Plan a day for the seniors to go around the district and deliver the diplomas, once they have their caps and gowns. The day of the senior meeting may be a good choice.
5. On the day of the presentations, students go to the diploma recipient's classroom or work area, wearing their cap and gown and share their story about how the recipient contributed to their success. Have them deliver the written letter as well as the diploma, wrapped in a ribbon.
6. Consider asking the principal to follow up with a note to the staffulty member, congratulating them and thanking them for making a difference to the senior and others.