

# GRADUATION CELEBRATION IDEAS

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Graduations are the perfect opportunity for you and your family to press pause and celebrate the accomplishments and investments represented by each marker.

Below are a few big *and* small ways to acknowledge your kid's progression from one phase to the next!

## KINDERGARTEN

### Family Show-and-Tell

Have your graduate choose five or six items from the school year that they think best represents *them*. Gather the family and let your future-first grader show-and-tell the family about their items and how each item represents who they are or their accomplishments over the last school year.

### Goodbye, Kindergarten

Help your graduate draw an outline of their hand (as if the hand were waving goodbye!) on a piece of poster board or construction paper. Then, have them write down five things they learned about or enjoyed as a kindergartener. On the palm of their hand, have them write down one thing they want to learn more about in first grade. Have them cut out the hand and post it somewhere they can see until the next school year.

### Grow Up

Grab some white paper, a poster board, or cardstock and have your graduate write down what they want to be when they grow up. Have them decorate it and even draw a picture of them in that profession. Then, take a photo of them holding their creation and print it out!

## 5TH GRADE

### Middle School Survival Kit

Gather together some middle school survival supplies—deodorant, combination lock, face wash, gym socks, etc. Put them in a basket along with a note about how excited you are for your student's new journey as a middle schooler. Present the gift to your graduate at dinner with the family, congratulating your rising middle schooler on their accomplishment.

### Walk Down Memory Lane

Find a photo of your rising middle schooler from each year of elementary school. Print them off or use them to create a digital slideshow. Gather the family together and display the photos in chronological order. Share a fun memory from each school year, reliving the time your graduate spent in elementary school.

### Sweet Beginnings

Bake or buy your student's favorite sweets and treats. Invite a few of their friends over and celebrate the sweet beginnings of a whole new season!

## 8TH GRADE

### Game Night

Host a few of your rising 9th grader's friends and put on a graduation-themed game night! Some game options could include:

- **Key to Success:** (*items needed: loose keys; chopsticks*) Placing a chopstick in their mouths, see who can pick up all the keys the fastest without using their hands, only a chopstick.
- **Smart Cookie:** (*items needed: cookies*) Place a cookie on the player's forehead, they must move it forward down into their mouths without using their hands. The first player to eat their cookie wins.
- **Moving On Up:** (*items needed: paper or plastic cups*) Divide the group into teams and give them a stack of cups. See which team can stack the most cups pyramid-style in an allotted amount of time.
- **Picture Perfect:** (*items needed: printed pictures of the graduate from each year of school through 8th grade*) Challenge the group to put the pictures in chronological order in an allotted amount of time.

### Table Service

Host a graduation dinner for your rising 9th grader and a few of their friends. The menu should include all of their favorite foods—even if they don't necessarily go together. Go all out and wear dress pants and a fancy shirt, serving them as if they were at a restaurant. And definitely, definitely don't skip dessert!

### Door Affirmation

Ask your friends and family to send you a one to two-sentence note of encouragement for your graduate. The night before their last day of middle school, print off or write down the notes on pieces of paper and tape them to their bedroom door.

## 12TH GRADE

### Advice Box

Have friends and family submit several pieces of advice they wish they'd known (or listened to) about life after high school. Put them on strips of paper and place them in a box or container. Gift them to your graduate, and encourage them to open the strips of paper one at a time over the next year.

### Adulthood Survival Kit

Gather all the supplies your graduate will need as they transition into young-adulthood—laundry detergent, cleaning supplies, garbage bags, storage containers, etc. (Even if your teen isn't moving out, they'll still need to acquire some new responsibilities for their next stage of life!) Present your graduate with the gift basket.

### Memory Jar

Ask family and friends to send you their favorite memory of your graduate. Print them out and place each one in a photo album page (8" X 10" albums will work best!). As a family, take the graduate to dinner. Take turns sharing your favorite memories with them before presenting them with the album.