

## High School Graduation Reimagined

My son's senior year of high school ended in a way no one would have imagined. As schools around the country scrambled to continue educating students, high school seniors lost out on all of their "lasts": games, events, prom, ditch day, local traditions and a traditional graduation ceremony. Cactus Shadows High School administration and parents worked together to provide at least some sort of graduation for these students, and I am grateful. Instead of the entire class having a graduation ceremony at Grand Canyon University, the school held 11 different ceremonies at our Fine Arts Center. Each graduate could bring 2 guests, and there were no more than 40 graduates in each group. Each session was also live streamed so others could watch. The school followed all social distancing guidelines provided by the Board of Education, and school board members and faculty could choose to participate or not. Parent and teacher volunteers cleaned the auditorium between each ceremony. Graduates and guests all wore masks. The speeches were recorded and played at each session. Students were able to sign up with their friends for their session of choice, and at least got to have one last event together. While this wasn't the graduation we had planned on, it was the perfect thing to do in these times. Thank you Cave Creek Unified, Cactus Shadows High School and all of the volunteers and teachers that helped make this event happen. #FalconAwesome.