

As you prepare for your FAST® Graduation, this is a great opportunity to shift the planning process from the team to empowering parents to begin taking on a leadership role. Team members should mentor parents through the planning process so they begin to develop the skills they will need in their FASTWORKS® planning.

FAST® Graduation Ceremony Preparation

- Would the parents like to have any specific theme?
- Do any parents have a talent they would like to share during the ceremony? (sing a song, read a poem)?
- Ask parents who they would like to invite to the ceremony?
- Who would they like to have present the graduation certificates?
- Is there a symbolic Rite of Passage the parents would like to incorporate as celebration for their shift into FASTWORKS during the ceremony? (i.e. being “pinned”, Soul Train lines, etc.)
- Group picture – ask when and where they would like to do this?
- Plan and discuss the agenda for the graduation. This will empower parents to prepare their children, be able to tell their guests what time to arrive and allow for a more organized session.

FAST® Graduation To-Do List:

- Start with a basic to-do list for parents to include:
 - Decorations
 - Food/Drinks/Cake
 - Invite principal/Teachers/Stakeholders
- Invite parents to sign up for the different tasks on the to-do list they have created
- Ask parents if they have other items that they would like to add to the list
 - Select or request someone to be the photographer/videographer
 - Create art to hang in the school to represent their graduating group

Affirmations

- The FAST® Team Members will write affirmations for each parent, but the team can also include the following:
 - Parents can choose to write affirmations to their children
 - Children can create projects for/write notes to their parents

Supporting FASTWORKS® Transition

- The FAST Team can prepare parents early by discussing FASTWORKS in Parent Group.
- Let parents know FASTWORKS is a continuation of what they’ve learned and started building in FAST. Explain that every graduating family (past and present) will be welcomed in this monthly program which will be led and planned by parents.
- Graduation is not an end but represents a new beginning for their family and for them to be seen as parent leaders in their child’s school.