

Seward Staff Development



Dr. Fields...unFenced



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pictures from National Geographic

“Always be in a state of becoming.” Walt Disney

“A **ceremony** is an event of ritual significance, performed on a special occasion.” Wikipedia
The word ceremony is saved for those special events in one’s life that not only has a significant impact, but in many cases is a culmination of learning, work, or meeting



some sort of standards. Those of us that are married may not have had to work very hard to get to the wedding ceremony. I, on the hand had to do lots

of convincing, dates, and relentless learning of how to get my wife to the ceremony. As we enter the graduation month I think of my daughter who will have a kindergarten graduation ceremony in a couple weeks. What did she have to do to “graduate” from kindergarten? She had to learn how to read, count to 100, write, and socially be ready for first grade. Her first graduation is important, but we did not send out invitations, no pictures will be passed out, and the reception will consist of an ice cream cone from Dairy Queen. There is no GPA calculations and I don’t think that there will be any speeches made from the kindergarteners and I am doubtful the board of education will be there to pass out diplomas. The good news is I think we will have 100% of kindergarteners graduating from Seward Elementary. As our high school seniors graduate on May 18 the

significance of the graduation ceremony changes. Grade Point Average is a big deal, speeches will be given by the valedictorian, air horns will be blown, pomp and circumstance will be played, graduation parties have been planned for months, invites are sent out, relatives will fill the high school gym, gowns will be rented, and hats with tassels will be kept as a mementos. If you think about these traditions associated with a high school graduation not much has changed over the last 50 years. The pictures may now be in color and an iMovie has replaced still shots. Ceremonies, withstand the test of time and bring a structure to important events in one’s life. As staff members in education you get to be apart of the ceremonial things such as going to graduation parties, help a student



write their speech, or help a struggling student get a passing grade so he/she can graduate. Each of you has played a big part in this culminating

ceremony by helping students reach the milestones necessary for the next step. My daughter’s kindergarten graduation is the first step in her journey, but she has many steps left to finish her K-12 race. Enjoy the rest of the school year and I hope everyone has a safe and relaxing summer!