Virtual Graduation/Promotion Ceremony Lesson Plan

Description: In a time when students must adhere to physical distancing. Yet you still want and need to celebrate your students here is a way to do so and to engage them. For those not graduating this is a great way to get younger grades to create a message for the graduates.

Learning Objectives:
- Enhance communication skills through verbal dialogue, listening, writing
- Self expression of opinions utilizing their voices, research and fact checking
- Promote engagement of student voices through a cross curricular learning experience
- Develop and strengthen computer skills using software that combines text, still images, audio, video, and other media
- Discussion around messaging concepts – using the "5 W's" in your message: "Who, what, when, where and why."

Materials:
- IMovie, WeVideo, Windows Media Maker, Final Cut or Adobe Premiere
- Smart Phones, Digital Cameras, Power Point, Pages or Google Presentations
- Mic for voice/audio recording (most computers have this feature internally)
- Photos, Images, Graphics

Course Ideas:
All projects can be done individually or as a collaborative effort. Should be: :15 / :30 sec. max.)

- Students announce themselves, school they are graduating from, and any honors they may want to share, (they could also do a voiceover to their senior photo)
- Students can share if they would like what they will be doing after high school
- Students can acknowledge someone they felt impacted their lives
- Once every student has turned in their project
- Student or teacher will edit them all together
  - Include school logo,
  - A recorded message from Principal or selected school staff

Optional:
- Students select class song or use Pomp and Circumstance music under video
- See if there is an alumni that would like to make a small video segment to wish the students a great future
- List of all student names graduating at the end
- Enlist images from the school year i.e. clubs, gatherings, etc.
- A standardized message from Superintendent
- Have valedictorian, salutatorian and/or president provide recorded messages

**Reminder when creating videos – length of time and word count for creating such a short message and not rushing through
15 Seconds (45 words), 30 Seconds (75 words), 60 Seconds (150 words), 90 Seconds (225 words)**

Remember it's the story not the technology that should drive a project. Although audio and visual media may enhance certain aspects of a story, students should focus on how best to communicate what's at the core of their story.