



## Honoring Deceased Students at Graduation Ceremonies

It shall be the accepted practice of the Weld Re-8 School District to honor deceased students, which have passed away during their school career, in the following manner:

- It is determined, as best as possible, that the deceased student would have still resided, attended and potentially graduated from Fort Lupton High School (for example - the family still resides within the district boundaries and the student would have graduated from Fort Lupton High School).
- The deceased student's parent or guardian shall contact the high school principal and request that the student be honored at graduation during the course of the deceased student's senior year but prior to April 1. *Requests received after April 1 of the graduating year shall be considered by the high school principal, in consultation with the superintendent.*
- The deceased student's parent or guardian shall meet with the high school principal prior to May 1 of the year of graduation to establish and formalize the method by which the deceased student shall be honored. Any commitments or discussion which may have taken place outside of this practice and by district personnel other than the high school principal shall not be honored or approved.
- The deceased student shall be honored in the following manner:
  - o Mentioned during the opening prayer or closing benediction by a student leader; and
  - o A graduation cap, purchased by parent or guardian, along with a photograph of the student (no larger than 8x10 inches) shall be carried in by a family-selected graduating senior and placed on a chair in the last row of graduates but directly adjacent to the last senior in the row.

At all times it is understood that graduation is meant to be a time of celebration as to the accomplishments of the senior class while acknowledging, with dignity and respect, those students that have passed prior to graduation.

As best as possible, this practice shall be communicated in a timely manner to parents or guardians of deceased students so they become aware of the district practice.

Adopted: June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2011