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Horizon commencement walk unites seniors, kindergartners

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Little and big graduates were applauded by families, classmates and staff on May 15 during Horizon Science Academy of Lorain's third annual Kindergarten and Senior Class Cap and Gown walk.

There were 72 kindergarten and 29 senior graduates who were paired up together and walked with pride around the outside of the K-12 campus, 760 Tower Blvd. in Lorain, and in its halls as many, including community officials and law enforcement officers, cheered on their accomplishments.

The graduates and their loved ones made their way to Horizon's auditorium to commemorate the achievements made in their journeys at the Academy alongside staff and alumni.

Jayson Bendik, Horizon's assistant principal of operations and community engagement coordinator, said 100 percent of the Academy's senior class graduated and earned over \$4 million in scholarships.

Over a four-year period, Horizon's senior classes have had a 97 percent graduation rate, Bendik said.

The cap and gown walk celebrates that achievement and creates memories for senior and kindergarten classes, he said.

"In our three years of doing the walk, it has grown and taken a life of its own when congratulating our seniors and kindergartners," Bendik said. "It's a way to honor them, congratulate them, show them our appreciation, and we just love doing it because it brings the community together."

Parents of the kindergarten students said that the walk was great because they were able to see their youngsters experience a graduation ceremony with high school seniors while coming together as a student body.

"I think it was a great experience for the kids to see everyone out of their classroom cheering them on; that was awesome," said Kristy Jimenez, mother of kindergarten graduate E.J. Jimenez.



"They deserve that."

The kindergartners' last day of school is May 24, concluding after their graduation ceremony in the school's auditorium at 12:30 p.m.

The seniors' last day and graduation

ceremony will take place at 6 p.m., May 23 at Horizon.

The last day for grades 8-11 will be May 24.

The last day for all remaining grades will be at 12:30 p.m., May 31.