

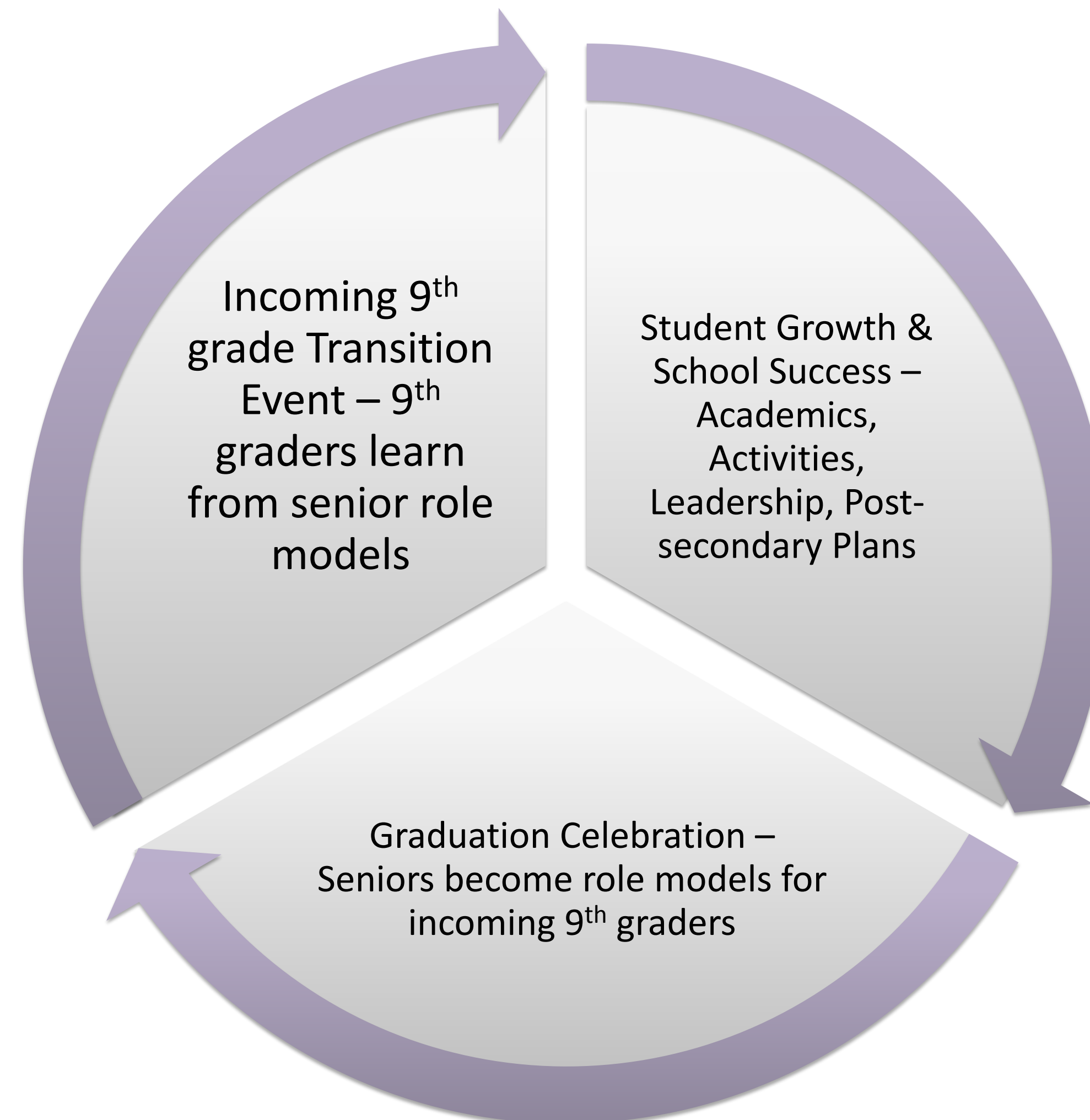
# Fort Collins High 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Transition and Graduation Celebrations: Helping Spanish-Speaking Families Navigate High School

## 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Transition Celebration

Incoming 9<sup>th</sup> grade Spanish-speaking families are invited to attend this transition event to help them understand the challenges and complexities of high school. Latino graduating seniors share a powerpoint presentation, lead a student panel and facilitate a Q&A session.

## Parent Response to Transition Celebration

Parents were extremely enthusiastic about the evening's event. They appreciated hearing from current students and felt that the student perspective was more beneficial than having high school staff talk "at them" about the high school experience.



## Unique Features of our Partnership Practice

- *Involvement of middle and high school staff*
- *Opportunity for families and students to connect*
- *Event highlights Latino student leadership*
- *Event increases early parent involvement in the high school processes*
- *Event increases parent connection to and comfort level in the school*

## Senior Graduation Celebration

Graduating seniors, their families, and Fort Collins High staff gather to recognize the students' accomplishments with cake, ice cream and a slide show. Seniors and their parents have the opportunity to write thank you cards to acknowledge the people who have supported them on their journey. 9<sup>th</sup> grade families are invited so they can visualize the successful result of a high school education.

## Parent Response to Graduation Celebration

Senior parents appreciated seeing the success of their children recognized in a special and intimate setting. They were grateful to have the opportunity to thank the school and teachers for supporting their children.