

The Future is Ours

Good evening, administrators, family, friends, and fellow classmates of the class of 2021. I am honored to speak at tonight's commencement ceremony. I would like to thank my teachers and my family for helping me get where I am today.

Four short years ago, we started high school. It was freshman year, and we weren't really sure what to expect, but we were eager to find what high school would bring us. It was the year that we choose electives, join JV and varsity sports teams, and attend our first school dance. Back then, we were young- we were children. Throughout the years, we have matured into adults, and tonight, we will graduate high school.

Albert Einstein once said, "Your imagination is your preview of life's coming attractions." Our graduating class relates to this quote. For years, we've all imagined our futures. We imagined where we'd like to live, what we'd like to do, and the families we would like to start. Based on the pictures we made in our minds, we made choices such as what classes to take, whether or not to attend Vo-Tech, which activities to be involved in, and who to build relationships with. More recently, we had to make choices about whether or not to further our education. Those who decided to attend college had to decide where was the best fit for them, how far to travel from home, and what to major in. Those who chose against attending college had to make decisions about where to obtain a job, or what branch of the military to enlist in. We have worked hard each day to be one step closer to achieving our goals, and today marks a milestone in our

journeys. Today, we will go our separate ways. A few will serve our country, many of us will move on to college, and others will enter the workforce.

Regardless of our chosen paths, we will all face challenges in the future. We need to embrace those challenges with open arms, because one thing I learned in high school was to work hard and never give up. When you learn to overcome the obstacles that you face, you will be successful!

For example, in the Tortoise and the Hare, the tortoise had the obvious disadvantage in the race. The tortoise was motivated and gave his best effort despite the odds of the situation being against him, while the hare was overconfident that he would win and decided to slack off and take a nap. This resulted in the tortoise winning the race. The moral of the story is: Be persistent, be determined, and never give up despite how hard your situation may be. Developing a strong work ethic early on in life will carry through and become easier to follow each day, which will benefit you in many aspects of life.

I think I speak on behalf of the entire class when I say I will miss you dearly, and cherish all of the memories we shared. Congratulations, class of 2021! Strive to reach your goals, even when things get difficult. Take care, keep in touch, and best of luck!