

Dear Graduates.

I wish there were words I could say or something I could do to change the situation we have been dealt, but unfortunately, there isn't. That doesn't change the fact that I, along with all the faculty and staff of Stuart Schools, want to recognize and honor you for your accomplishments while attending Stuart School.

Many of you, I have known since you were born. Others came to our school along the way. Either way, I love you each for the Stuart Hornet you are.

As this pandemic came upon us, it turned not only our little world around us, but truly, the entire world upside down. As changes are forced upon us, we don't like them, and nobody says we have to like them. What we must do, however, is adapt. Our old normal may never be "normal" again. If this is true, then what will happen to us?

In 1918, right after World War I, America and indeed, the rest of the world was faced with the Spanish Influenza pandemic. Worldwide, 50 Million people died: 675,000 of those were from the United States. The people who survived that pandemic had a choice. Adapt and overcome, or become a statistic.

The people that survived became the generation that gave birth to what is known as the Greatest Generation of American people. You may ask, "What was so important about giving birth to them? They weren't the greatest generation themselves." While this is true, where did the Greatest Generation of Americans get what they had that made them what they were? Parents, teachers, siblings, Pastors, other family members and so on. You, too, have those things and you, too, can pass those things along to the children you will have and raise.

This Greatest Generation didn't just happen. They were made. They were made by a group of people whose "normal" had been turned upside down. They adapted and they persevered! They were made tough by trial of fire...just as YOU are being made tough. You see, what you are able to deal with now will make you able to deal with difficulties in the future and overcome them.

You also have something the Graduates of 1918 didn't have. Through technology and modern conveniences, you may not have to wait to give birth to the next Greatest Generation. You have the ability to become the next Greatest Generation.

Be wise, be safe, and above all, rely on your Creator to get you through these difficult times.

On another note, we will be mailing out your graduation tickets so you should have them by the middle of next week. The Administration, Faculty and Staff of Stuart School realize that some who want to attend will not be able to do so. With that in mind, we would like for Seniors to park behind the school and when the ceremony is over, we would like for you to drive through the parking lot in front of the school and parade down main street so all those who can't come to the ceremony will be able to wish you well as you continue on down main street. We will send more information with your tickets.

*Tracy S. Blasengame,*

Superintendent