

Maine School Administrative District #49

41 West Street
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Monday, May 25, 2020

Dear Lawrence Class of 2020,

Congratulations! High school graduation is a milestone; an achievement to be proud of. You are graduating high school in unprecedented times.

As a school and community who place so much value on our traditions, we can appreciate that these last three months are not the senior year you envisioned. Changes to these traditions do not diminish your accomplishments - they make you stand out. You have risen to the challenge and helped design a ceremony fit for our time and circumstance.

At times, the last 13 years of education felt like they took forever. It felt like the last block of the day would never end. Look back. It seems like just yesterday when you walked into the junior high from different elementary schools. You became one class from one school. Now you are graduating. Cherished memories with your friends, teachers, teammates, coaches, mentors and family before venturing into the next phase of your life.

Then came the global pandemic. Let's be abundantly clear – we recognize that not having all of the above is a huge letdown and if you're upset, embrace those feelings.

Yet the pandemic cannot take away your hard work or any of the experiences that the amazing leadership, teachers and staff of the district have worked hard to provide you with. All of these experiences can help you celebrate this important time and help you make the transition to start the next phase of your lives.

From the School Board of MSAD 49, we applaud you and congratulate you on your achievements and on graduating high school, a very important milestone in one's life. You are not forgotten. We are thinking about you.

Our thoughts are with you now and as you move into your futures as Lawrence graduates. We understand and are living the reality with you that there is much unknown and uncertain in all of our futures; that does not diminish your hard work or this important milestone. We celebrate you and the efforts it has taken to come this far, you are the future of our nation.

Some of us know you personally and some of us know you from hearing about you from teachers, coaches, mentors and school leaders. We have been told and we believe that you are resilient and innovative and we honor and recognize your efforts and struggles. Personal experience, feedback from your teachers and mentors, and class data shows that you work hard and find ingenious ways to learn in and out of the classroom. It's no surprise to us that a recent PEW research report found you - the post-Millennials are on track to become the most well-educated generation yet. We see your hard work, we value your voices and perspectives, and we honor your graduation achievements.

Our advice upon graduation is simple, try hard, be kind, keep learning, and as much as possible strive to leave the world a better place for all. Go Bulldogs!

In closing we offer our heartfelt congratulations and our best wishes to the class of 2020. We look forward eagerly to future days when you can shake all your classmates' hands in congratulations. Until that time be well, be strong and carry the bulldog pride with you at all times.

Once a Bulldog, Always a Bulldog!

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