



Class of 2020,

Every year I write something about the graduating class or about my experiences with the senior class. You all have shown tremendous growth since your freshman year on Bamboo Lane. Your junior year you were able to experience a school year with just your class and the class of '19 on our main campus. Then, your senior year arrived filled with great anticipation of moving into the new state-of-the-art classroom building as the "big dogs" on campus. You all were the only students that our staff knew to begin this school year because the sophomore and junior classes were brand new to our campus. I really enjoyed getting to know you all better this year and looked forward to how you would finish this school year.

In your last semester, there were a LOT of great things that your class was still striving to succeed. The girls track team was looking to win their FOURTH consecutive State Championship. The boys soccer team were the favorites to win the school's first-ever state soccer title this year. The baseball and softball teams believed they had something to prove this season. All of the seasons were canceled due to the global pandemic, COVID-19.

Additionally, you should have been able to experience your senior prom, go to DECA nationals, robotics nationals, finish the work you started in your clubs and other activity groups, put the finishing touches on the yearbook and much more.





You should have had an opportunity to be with your friends and classmates one final semester before venturing into the next chapter of life. The rest of us were looking forward to celebrating your accomplishments at a large-scale graduation ceremony after your final departure from our halls. The senior class was robbed of all of that. It's not fair and my heart aches for you all. I love you more than you'll ever know.

I know you have all heard these phrases: when life gives you lemons, make lemonade, when you're sad, turn that frown upside down, what doesn't kill you makes you stronger, and you can't help what hand you were dealt, but what you do with that hand is up to you.

I truly believe in the Class of 2020 and know that you all will come through this pandemic stronger than ever. I came across an article written by Chris Dier, the 2020 Louisiana Teacher of the Year, containing a paragraph that really sums up my faith in you all. "Your generation can navigate multiple worlds and bounce between physical and digital spaces with ease. You are part of the most racially and ethnically diverse generation, and you embrace those differences in ways adults seem to struggle. You courageously put yourself out there for the world to see and criticize. You push boundaries and challenge norms. You find ingenious ways to compensate for any gaps you may have accrued without the help of educators, whether it's through Khan Academy or a sibling. It's a small wonder why post-Millennials are on track to become the most well-educated generation yet."





Class of 2020, there's no doubt you all will be prepared for the next chapter in life. You are stronger after what you've experienced this last semester of school. I'll be excited to hear from you all in the next 5 to 10 years and hear all the success stories that you'll share with me and the teachers that you had here at Sylvan Hills High.

Go forth and be the best version of yourselves as you maneuver through what life has to offer.

Go Bears!

Tracy Allen, Principal

