**14443, Juliette Miller - graduation**

Good Afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen,

I want to welcome the families and friends of all our graduates to help us celebrate this momentous occasion, along with all our teachers and staff. I also want to congratulate all our graduates for arriving at this moment in your lives.

Today you have reached the end of one season in your lives. When you first arrived at this school you were filled with excitement and trepidation of what you would experience. During your time here you have learned and grown into the person you are today. Your brain feels like it’s on overload today. You don’t feel like you could fit one more piece of information into it. Relax, that’s normal. Just know that what you have learned to this point will be put into a part of your mind to use whenever you need it, even though you don’t need to instantly access it as if you were taking a test today. Sometime after today’s ceremony all of that will settle and your mind will be ready to receive more learning, whether it is formal learning in a classroom or life learning from experiences. Know that you are ready for whatever comes next; you are as prepared as you possibly be prepared.

Some of you have known what your future goals and plans since you were children, while some of you are still trying to figure it all out. That’s ok. Start with what you know and work from there. If you know what next step you want to take, then take it boldly. If you aren’t sure, then look at your options and make a bold step in the best direction possible and see where it takes you. Those of you who are certain may find your lifelong plans are just what you dreamed. But, don’t be surprised if you find yourself being directed to do something else. Those of you who have no idea where you are going may find yourself in the middle of the most exciting times of your life as you figure out what you want to do.

The most important thing to remember is to put some plan into motion that is well thought out. Have some idea of what you like or what you hate. Research what you don’t know. You’ve learned how to do that for school; it’s no different for life. Look at the pros and cons and then make a decision. Seek out wise counsel when you need it. It’s no shame to ask for advice. Only a fool thinks they know everything. But, once you have made your decision don’t be afraid to step out, one step at a time, and go after your dreams and goals. If you make a mistake, make adjustments or change directions as needed. No plan is perfect.

The important thing to remember is to go after your dreams and goals. Be persistent because life won’t hand your dreams to you on a silver platter. Anything worth having or doing will require work, planning and sacrifice. But, when you reach your goal or your dream, you will be glad you put forth the effort, made the sacrifices and reached your dream.

I have faith in you all that you will be able to accomplish what you set your mind to do and what you are willing to work for, plan for, and make sacrifices to accomplish. I want to hear back from you in the future and hear what things you have accomplished, as well as when you might need future advice if you get stuck. We’ve been here for you as students and we will be here for you to cheer you on and uplift you as you move forward.

Good luck and great success to each of you.