

Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School

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David L. Heisey, Ed. D.
Principal

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Dear Members of the Class of 2020,

Unfortunately, the Covid-19 pandemic has negatively impacted many members of our school community. There have been staff, students, and family members that have contracted this disease, and have lost loved ones during these last few weeks. My thoughts and prayers are with all of the members of our school community that have been impacted by Covid-19.

Each year, I draft a message to graduating seniors in the form of a letter that appears in the last issue of the Fanscotian. In past years, drafting this letter was as simple as reflecting on the school year and then putting my thoughts into words. My message to the Class of 2020 has been much more difficult to formulate.

I reflected on the many milestones that the Class of 2020 will miss, at least in the traditional sense; however, I thought focusing on what we have learned and how it may impact us moving forward would be more appropriate. In mid-March when schools were canceled, on-line learning and the stay-at-home orders began, it was hard to imagine that these conditions would continue for weeks and probably months.

Prior to March 13, 2020, your lives were characterized by busy schedules, including attending school during the week, homework at night and on weekends, tutoring, music lessons, athletic team practices, and other commitments that comprised everyday student life. Suddenly, these various commitments were transformed into a completely different lifestyle. The busy schedules that dictate our daily routine were suddenly in the past.

Family has always been the central source of influence in our lives, whether we realized it or not. Your family and loved ones have more impact on your future success than anyone else. According to a Harvard Study that began in 1938 and continues today, "the most important influence on a flourishing life is love. Not early love exclusively, and not necessarily romantic love. But love early in life facilitates not only love later on, but also the other trappings of success..." The majority of the people participating in this study that found success early on, did so because they had people in their lives that loved them. The majority of the people who flourished, found love before 30, and the data suggests that was *why* they flourished. The Grant Study, as it became known, found that, "IQ and academic achievement did not predict a successful life. What mattered was the quality of relationships across one's life, beginning during childhood, at home."

Perhaps the hidden message in this Covid-19 pandemic is that it provides us with the opportunity to remember the most important people in our lives. As difficult as these times are, the Class of 2020 does have an opportunity to share these precious milestones with family. All of you have plans after graduating Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School. Whether it is leaving home for college or the military, entering the workforce, or any other post-high school experience, there is no time like the present to show your appreciation and love for the people around you.

It has been my pleasure to serve as your principal. While your high school experience is not ending as you would wish, which is heart-breaking and disappointing, the Class of 2020 will always be remembered.

Best regards,



David L. Heisey, Ed. D.
Principal

MISSION STATEMENT

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood School District

educates and empowers our community of individual learners to be successful citizens of the world.