



WEST BLOOMFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT

PORTRAIT of a GRADUATE

WBHS Seniors and Families,

To the class of 2020, I wish to offer you my condolences. The milestone events that come with graduating from high school have now become very different for you. It is appropriate to be sad and to grieve the loss of what should have been. I share in these emotions with you. Please know that although things will be different, your accomplishments and celebrations are not gone. We will recognize all that you are and that you represent. You will graduate, you will receive your diplomas, and you will be honored for all that you have earned.

As we walked out of school on Thursday, March 12, I couldn't even imagine that we would be in this place. I saw many of you, said goodbye, and expected to see you on Monday, March 16. That night, our schools were closed for three weeks. Even then, I believed that we would see each other after spring break. Here we are today, with the announcement that school buildings will be closed for the remainder of the school year. We often joke about leaving school early, and getting those extra days off, but right now all I want is to be back in school with all of you. It is upon us, as leaders in our school community, to find ways to continue to connect with one another and to recognize what school means to us as human beings. March 12 will not be the last time that we will have seen one another. We will be together again, and we will celebrate with you.

People commonly believe that having 20/20 vision is to be able to see perfectly. This is not the case however, as it only indicates that you can see what people with normal vision see from 20 feet away. It is very possible to have much better vision than 20/20. Using this information, along with the phrase that hindsight is 20/20, it is sadly fitting that for the class of 2020, the vision of the world today is not perfect. Looking back, in hindsight, there were many imperfect decisions and actions. It is healthy to be sad about these events, but realize that they are also out of our control. Allow yourself to move forward and to see what can be, in the future.

Our hindsight may be 20/20, as we can see what has already been. I ask you to challenge yourselves to allow your foresight to be greater. Use what we have learned to appreciate yourselves, to take care of each other, and to move forward with the resiliency and determination that will be born from this time in your lives. It is time to be proud of what you have accomplished and to be confident in how you overcome and succeed. The class of 2020 will be defined by your actions and your impacts on the world. New ways of problem-solving, reliance on collaboration, reframing communication, and providing meaningful contributions to yourselves and others are what make the class of 2020 unique. Use your skills and change the world. It is your turn.

The world will forever be different once this passes. As you transition into adulthood, you are the generation who will lead this change. Take time to remember it. Journal, document, create, and engage. Your stories will shape your families, your lives, and history itself. How you handle this change will guide decision-making and human interaction for generations to come. Be the positive that we all need in the world. I am optimistically confident that your energy and leadership will guide us into a new era of hope and kindness toward one another. Let your emotions be what they are, seize the feelings, and teach us all how to lead with compassion and grace.

The story of the class of 2020 has taken unexpected turns, with added chapters and obstacles. The ending to your story will remain the same, though. You will become West Bloomfield High School graduates, you will go on to the next steps in your lives, and you will succeed. I look forward to the next story in the series. I am eager with anticipation to see how you influence those around you and what impacts you will have on the world.

Class of 2020, this is your senior year. This is your moment to celebrate. This is your time. I am so excited to see the legacies you leave, and to see how you come out on the other side.

I am always proud to be a Laker, and to be represented by you as the next graduating class of West Bloomfield High School,

Eric Pace

Principal
West Bloomfield High School