



# High School Graduation

June 13, 2021

Speech by Jeremy Margolis, Class of 2021

Hello, Class of 2021! What a great day! I know you all have heard a lot today about COVID and the hardships that it has presented to our class and our school, that is all true. But I want to take you back about a month ago to this very field that we gather on today and tell you a story that I believe best describes the community that has been created by the fantastic class of 2021.

It was Community Day... an effort by the school to get us all together after a long year apart... there were rides, food, festivities, and it was great fun. But I think you could ask anyone about what they remembered most from that day, and it wouldn't be any of that. It would be what happened just as the day came to a close right after Anoushka Chander beautifully sang two songs. (Actually she was only supposed to sing one but we all screamed for an encore.) It was then that we all gathered out here and for some reason just started sharing stories about our years together. Literally the entire grade all piled together right here sharing whatever came to mind whether we had been at GDS for 4 years or 14—it didn't matter. From relationships, to moments of joy, to terribly unfair grades, to almost drowning with friends, to what comes next, we sat and listened and laughed. And here's something the faculty won't believe, unlike our assemblies in the forum everyone sat quietly as each person spoke. And here is why... because we care about each other and know that part of the reason that we are who we are is because of each other.

I think there is something else that is very important to say. From the moment I tearfully got out of the car 14 years ago and walked into my Pre-K class, or for those of you whose first experience was coming in high school, I think we all know the value of the amazing faculty and staff at GDS. From teachers who took us under their wing, to coaches who pushed us hard, to staff who cleaned up after us and never got the credit they deserved, you're the ones, along with our loving parents, who got us to this day. Class of 2021, let's give them a hand.

GDS means the world to me. We learned to think here. We learned to challenge each other here—most of the time, respectfully. We learned to care about the world beyond us, while recognizing that we have a responsibility to make it better. That's a lot for a school to do, but

GDS... you did it.

And this class?? It's pretty awesome too... We have people like Ella, who has been a go-getter, an organizer, and a real asset for our entire grade, and I think I can speak for everyone when I say that we fully expect you to become the third woman president of the United States. Then there are star athletes like Alex, Danielle, and Hayden... fantastic artists and musicians like Fiore, Anoushka, and Josh... But here is the thing: there are 130 students in this class, each of whom have their own amazing category, their own amazing story, and have brought so much to this school.

I love each and every one of you. I love this school. I know the sky's the limit for the Class of 2021! Thank you for letting me speak today! Congratulations!