

Sayville Superintendent of Schools

Dr. John E. Stimmel

COMMENCEMENT SPEECH 2019

As Superintendent of Schools I welcome the families and special guests to the commencement exercise for the Sayville Class of 2019. As Superintendent I speak on behalf of the dedicated BOE, administrators, faculty, and staff who have served these students throughout their years in Sayville Schools.

On this special day, the crowning achievement of thirteen years of hard work, joy, and tears, I would like to call to mind a moment just shy of two decades ago. To parents and loved ones of these students I ask you to remember those first days when you brought your child home from the hospital.

To our students I say, you were infants once and there you were lying in your crib. Your parents and loved ones looked down at you and, perhaps, placed their finger into your tiny perfect hand. What a wondrous thing you were then. As you grew those same people would take your hand to steady you as you learned to walk. They held your hand to comfort you and protect you.

Before anyone knew it was time to hold your hand on your way to kindergarten. There something special happened. You took the hand of new adults in your life. Your teachers held your hand and together we shared with your family the joy of watching you learn and grow into the young adults you are today. Somewhere along the way we stopped holding hands but we never stopped “emotionally” holding your hands through good times and bad.

We called you children once. Now we call you young adults. The wonder and pride that we had for you when you were young has only grown. Graduates I urge you to take a moment today to offer some gesture, whether a simple greeting, handshake or hug, to let those who are close to you know how much you mean to them. To parents and loved ones I urge you take your graduate one more time by the hand ---call to mind how much they have grown and let them know how proud you are of all that they have accomplished.

To the Sayville Class of 2019: We called you children once but here you are as young adults about to begin a new season in your lives. Though time and distance may prevent us from holding your hands as you go forth, we will always hold you in our hearts. For to us you will always be considered the children of Sayville, our pride and joy.

May God Bless the 2019 Graduating Class of Sayville High School.