

Class of 2021, last year when the nation was faced with a Pandemic, you essentially lost the social aspect of the last quarter of your junior year and had no idea what your senior year would be like. At some point in August you realized that you were in fact going to receive your last year of instruction, however, that instruction was not going to look like anything you had seen in the last 12 years of your schooling.

- You only came to school one day a week, then two days a week, then no days, then five days, but only until 11:45.
- What we called “Mustang Time” didn’t exist
- Some of you never returned to a classroom inside the building; you chose the Virtual Classroom.
- When you were here, it was difficult to identify your classmates behind their mask, and even more difficult to cultivate new friendships with students who were attending Triton for the first time.

This was not what you envisioned when you entered our doors four years ago but these were the parameters you were given.

Throughout the past four years, we have discussed “Decisions and choices.” They are yours to make and you must live with the consequences of your choices and learn from them good or bad.

Class of 2021, the last advice I will give you as your Principal, you can decide to dwell on the negative things that you experienced during the Pandemic OR you can choose to celebrate the things you did and the positive experiences you had over the past four years.

- The relationships you made; the things you achieved even if you failed the first attempt, but then tried again and succeeded; the knowledge you gained, not just about Math and English, but about the world in which you live.
- Focus on the things you did to help a fellow Mustang or a time when your Triton Family helped you,
- Reflect back to who you were the first time you entered your kindergarten classroom, the first nap you took, when you were actually supposed to take a nap and I am not talking about in the cafeteria or LMC during study hall.

- Now, look in the mirror at the wonderful young adult that you have become.
- This person, the person you see in the mirror, that's the person that is going to make an impact on this world.
- How do I know this, because you are resilient!
- You know how to overcome adversity!
- As your Principal, I know you are ready, Class of 2021, you have been tested and you have passed!

As you leave Triton and embark on the next part of your journey, never lose the pep in your step, never shorten your stride, and continue to make good decisions.

Don't be afraid to be the leader or make an unpopular choice because you know it is the right thing to do. When you do take that step that leads you away from the crowd, always remember that you will never stand alone because you will always be a part of Triton. Once a Mustang, Always a Mustang.

On behalf of Triton Administration, faculty and staff, congratulations Class of 2021 and Thank you for the last 4 years.