

Mr. Daniel Finkle

Good Afternoon Class of 2020 Graduates.

I say graduates, because for all intents and purposes, you are already graduates of Delran High School. This occurred on June 19th when you were presented with your high school diploma. But what does that truly mean?

Having a Delran High School diploma means that you dedicated yourselves to your studies and put forth your best effort. It means that you gave of yourself through community service. It means that you have carried yourselves with dignity and pride. And, it means that you will always have a home here at Delran High School.

Throughout the past four years, you have had your ups and downs; however, through it all, you persevered which culminates with today's ceremony. We have enjoyed homecoming, amazing competitive sports, outstanding performances on the field and on the stage, and enjoyed a host of other accomplishments of individuals and as a class.

The biggest accomplishment of all was how you, as a group, were able to handle the past four months. Many of the traditions that we enjoy in Delran and honestly, in any high school, were not able to be held. The Senior Trip, well, we got lucky on that one; however, the Prom, award evenings, a sports season, and final musical performances were cancelled.

Through it all, you have held your heads high, been mature about the situation that we have all been placed in, and now here we are,

your final official event of your high school career. You see, you realized a very important lesson, we can only control what we can control.

Many human beings believe that the world revolves around themselves; however, as we can see with this pandemic, that is not the case. Viruses, much like Mother Nature, does not care if you are white, Black, Hispanic, Asian, or any other race. She doesn't care if you are Christian, Jewish, Muslim, or any other religion. She doesn't care if you are gay, straight, bi, or trans. What I love about this class, is that much like Mother Nature, you don't either! You are caring, compassionate, accepting, and truly a loving group of young men and women. If more people truly learned about acceptance and knowing where they fit in the universe, this world would be a better place!

In thinking about the events of the past four months, I was so upset about how this has affected the students of Delran. Most importantly, this particular group has been on my mind since we touched down in Philadelphia on March 14th. I saw this on a bumper sticker last week and realized that this truly embodies you. It read, "Every Senior Class has made memories...you, Delran Class of 2020, have made "history", and you should be very proud of this!

This has been the most difficult year of my 26-year career and seeing the way you have handled this has warmed my heart and truly solidified why I chose education for my career. You have been amazing and I am so honored that I was able to be a part of your experience.

I truly wish all of you the greatest of experiences as you leave

Delran High School and embark on the next phase of your life's journey.

Please come back and share with us the amazing successes that I know you will have had and always remember that DHS will always be your home.