



BCSSSD Westampton High School Graduation

Dr. Nagy Speech
June 20, 2017

Good morning Board of Education Members, President Silcox, Vice President Lee, Foundation President Tony Carnivale and Vice President Joe Komar, Administration, Faculty, Staff and most importantly, our High School Graduates:

This is a special year! Some of your classmates convinced me to ride three roller coasters at last week's senior Hershey Park trip, I will never be the same, but I will never forget the quality time with you. Many of you are wearing medals around your neck. I was so proud to attend the special Olympic completion on the TCNJ campus last weekend. It was a proud moment for any of us in attendance.

Not only are you transitioning from 12th grade, there are a number of your administrators, teachers, related services and support staff who will be graduating with you this year as they retire or take other roles in other places. I would like to ask that your principal, Mr. McLemore to stand and be recognized now that he is graduating with this class as he retires and interim assistant superintendent for special education, Mrs. Andy Demidont, whose dedicated service this year has provided invaluable support to our District. Thank you.

To all of you, I recognize that you are a PLUS to our school and district and you have embarked upon a journey to embrace an acronym: PLUS: Positivity, Lifelong learning, Understanding and Utility and Self-esteem and Service.

Positivity: All one has to do is walk around the campus and notice the smiles on your face or the interactions you have with the staff, your fellow classmates and our visitors. You are role models in positivity for you see the good in each person and make the best of every day. Remember that your positivity will attract other positive people and as a result, new opportunities will open up to you never imagined before.

Lifelong Learning: The skills you learn today must be built upon for the rest of your life. As you enter high school, those skills will be refined and expanded. However, learning does not stop in the classroom, it is continuous for the rest of your life. The more you learn, the more options you will have. Remember though that you have to persevere no matter how hard, because at one point, your perseverance will encounter lady luck and other doors will be opened to you unimagined before. Also remember that you will learn more from your failures than by your successes. We will remember the challenges and what we learned from having the grit and determination to overcome diversity.

Understanding and Utility: Your generation wants to be understood and wants to have their voice heard. You are also a generation that stresses practicality – help me to learn and give me feedback so that I can accomplish a certain task. What you learn has to make sense to you. Remember the importance to never forget your past and who supported you along your journey. Remember to help someone along the way as you were helped. We all are called to pay it forward.

Self-esteem and Service: You are the generation that wants to make a difference and want to be recognized for the gifts that you are to the world. You want to be valued because you can make a difference and provide a special service to our community and beyond. You have the ability by giving of yourself to bring smiles to others and to make their day a little better.

My dear high school graduates, congratulations on your new milestone. When you get a chance today, thank your administrators, teachers and your parents and guardians who supported you and loved you and nurtured your desire to succeed and be happy. Know that you are a PLUS to the district and the school. Today is a celebration of new beginnings. Thank you and have a great summer.