

Remarks to the Class of 2013

Thomas Mosier, President
Piscataway Board of Education President

Good evening. Before we move forward with the commencement, on behalf of the Piscataway Board of Education, I would like to inform you that we will vote to appoint the new Superintendent next Thurs. the 27th at 6pm at the Board Offices. Thank you to the staff, administrators, citizens and parents who participated in focus groups and in information gathering sessions, during the process of choosing the Superintendent.

This year, in the spirit of community and cooperation between local, county and state government, I am pleased to bring your attention to our honored guests who are not only our neighbors, but our leaders, who have joined us here on the dais to offer their strong support of our school system and the graduates of the Class of 2013. A special welcome to State Senator Bob Smith, Mayor Brian Wahler, Sheriff Millie Scott, Councilman Steve Cahn and Councilwoman Chanel McCullum. I am pleased with this spirit of cooperation and hope that it continues.

As we gather tonight to recognize the achievements of the Piscataway High School Class of 2013, let's take a moment to pay tribute to the community of individuals that has worked together to bring our students to the culmination of their high school career. To the parents, teachers, administrators, coaches, clergy, family, and friends as well as all others who have made a difference in the lives of these fine young adults – good work!

Here in Piscataway, we have tools to craft the finest education - to prepare our students for the future. Success, however, is dependant upon how students embrace the tools they are given and how they learn to wield them to build a strong foundation.

I am honored to report that the Piscataway High School Class of 2013 has been built on a solid structure that they themselves forged with the tools they were given, one that will not waver and will support the weight of a lifetime of learning. Ladies and gentleman, you share in the architecture that is our students. You have helped

them to build themselves into the fine people who are seated before you today.

Yes, these are the leaders of tomorrow, but they have also shown that they are also the leaders of today. Our Senior Class has exhibited leadership on all levels. I have seen the seniors lead the underclassman on the football field and I have watched them lead the younger performers as they grappled with tough social issues portraying their characters in the Piscataway High School Drama Club's rendition of Hairspray, the musical, in our performing arts center. Our seniors lead by example, not just on the athletic fields or on stage but in the library tutoring their fellow classmates, in the science labs, in the classrooms, in the hallways, clubs and honor societies. Most importantly, when Hurricane Sandy struck and our school system and township was working to get things back to normal again, many of our seniors lent a hand in many different ways. Mature beyond their years these wonderful students and their kind efforts shined, both volunteering their time and again leading by example to ensure that there was calm in the wake of

the storm and extra helping hands. You can tell the most about a person and their character when you give them a challenge...

Their values have been formed and their character constructed in part by you. General Colin Powell best summed it up when he said,

“All children need a laptop.... a human laptop. Moms, dads, grannies and grandpas, aunts, uncles – someone to hold them, read to them, teach them. Loved ones who will embrace them and pass on the experience, rituals and knowledge of a hundred previous generations. Loved ones who will pass to the next generation their expectations of them, their hopes and their dreams”.

To the members of the Class of 2013, remember to thank those who have helped you along the way to this achievement. As you leave here, graduates of Piscataway High School

- Believe in yourself
- Recognize your potential and
- Remember to apply the lessons you have learned

Celebrate now, but ready yourself for the hard work. Do not be afraid, but be bold as you go forth. An ancient Chinese philosopher said that every great journey begins with a single step. As a Piscataway High School graduate, you have within you the confidence to take that first step. There will be times that the road before you will be lit with sunshine, but there will also be times that you may be navigating on the darkest night. Forge forward. Continue to make yourselves, the people you love, and all of us here at Piscataway Schools proud.

I wish you many great journeys along the road of life.

Congratulations to all!