

Congratulations

Class of 2020



Norm Blaseg
Director of Education
Rainbow District School Board

Dear graduates:

Experiences build character.

The global pandemic, which forced us to live and learn in unusual ways, was one of those experiences. An experience so raw and so real, so personal and so poignant, so far away and so close to home, it called on all of us to shift our thinking and do things differently.

From this experience emerged remarkable stories of resilience.

I am proud of our educators, support staff, students and parents/guardians. Together, you rose to the challenge, adjusted to the new reality, supported each other, explored creative ways to learn while safely apart, and achieved success.

For our graduating students, the pandemic provided an unparalleled opportunity for you to build character traits that will serve you well in learning and in life.

Adaptability. Creativity. Ingenuity. Flexibility. Tenacity.
Perseverance. Care. Compassion. Kindness. Commitment.
Dedication. Determination. Purpose. Passion. Patience.

I am grateful to our community leaders who so willingly shared their graduation messages with you. They captured the magnitude and meaning of this moment in time in their good wishes, words of wisdom and lessons learned. They share our pride in you and your accomplishments. That is most rewarding.

As you further your studies, begin an apprenticeship, or enter the world of work or independent living, remember that you are the authors of your own story. Take the knowledge and the skills that you have gained and write the next chapter with confidence, conviction and courage. You determine your destiny. Continue to work hard, nurture a strong circle of support, and allow yourself to become the person you were meant to be. Above all, enjoy the adventure.

This graduation is one for the history books. Years from now, you will look back on this day and say: "I graduated from high school in the midst of a global pandemic."

Trustees, superintendents, principals, vice-principals, teachers, and support staff join me in extending to all of you our very best wishes for the future. We look forward to celebrating this milestone graduation with you, your family, your friends and your community when it is safe to come together again.

Congratulations!

Congratulations

Class of 2020



Doreen Dewar
Chair
Rainbow District School Board

2020 graduates:

Each morning when the sun comes up, the gazelle awakens.
It knows it must outrun the fastest lion or be eaten.
When the sun comes up, the lion also awakens.
It knows it must outrun the slowest gazelle or it will starve.

In the end, it doesn't really matter if you are a lion or a gazelle.
When the sun comes up, you'd better be running!

Graduates of the class of 2020, congratulations on your achievements to date
and may you always find the strength and determination to face each sunrise, running!



Dena Morrison
Vice-Chair
Rainbow District School Board

Congratulations to the class of 2020!

Your achievements deserve recognition, and are especially noteworthy given our challenging times.
Your adaptability, resiliency, commitment and determination will serve you well as your future awaits.
Whether you choose the world of work, college or university, you have shown that you can do it.
We are proud of you, and are confident as we pass the torch.

If we've learned nothing else in the last few months, we've learned what's important,
how we are all connected, and that change comes when we raise our collective voices
and work together towards a better future for all.

Every generation tries to leave the world better than the way they found it.
We look to you to lead us to a better future on such issues as climate change, racism,
and social and economic injustices.

Fortunately, you are up to the challenge.

Best wishes.

Congratulations

Class of 2020



Bob Clement
Trustee, Area 8
Rainbow District School Board

Congratulations on your well-deserved success.

It's okay to feel disappointed. Being disappointed about these cancellations is normal. Think about the future. Take care of yourself. Celebrate your accomplishments in different ways.

This situation is hard, but you are strong and you'll get through it. You have had great support throughout these last few months and throughout your school years.

Warmest congratulations on your graduation and best wishes for your next adventure.

So happy to share in the excitement for your graduation, and I am so very proud of you all.

With love and pride today and always.



Linda Debassige
Trustee, First Nations
Rainbow District School Board

Dear graduates:

It gives me great pleasure to salute the class of 2020 on reaching this milestone in your journey. In Indigenous culture and traditions, the Seven Grandfathers teach us the lessons of Love, Respect, Bravery, Truth, Honesty, Humility and Wisdom as the path to a good life.

It is my sincere wish that these teachings guide you as you continue to develop your full potential and become all that you were meant to be.

Love deeply and freely. Give respect to be respected.
Do the right thing and make good choices.
Be mindful that the right thing does not always come easy, however, comes with great rewards and builds integrity.
Live without regret. Be honest with yourself and with others.
Practise compassion, kindness and patience.
Use sound judgement and cultivate positive relationships.
Go forward with a positive attitude and achieve your dreams.
Gichi-apiitendaagwad.
Congratulations!
Be great.

Congratulations

Class of 2020



Judy Hunda
Trustee, Area 6
Rainbow District School Board

I extend sincere congratulations to the 2020 graduates of Rainbow Schools. What a year it has been! Whether you are graduating from Grade 8 or secondary, I know this is not what you envisioned for this milestone year in your educational journey. I share in your disappointment that all the fun, fanfare and time spent with friends isn't possible. This does not in any way diminish your many accomplishments. I hope you are very proud of your successes - and I happily join families, teachers and Board staff in congratulating you.

You may be tired of hearing the phrase, "the Class of 2020 is making history", but it is a fact. I know it may be too sad, painful and raw to see it now but your children and grandchildren will one day learn about this. By then, I hope you will appreciate how amazing you have been in dealing with a global crisis you had little control over. In such extraordinary times, you have demonstrated resilience, perseverance and care for your fellow citizens by social distancing and participating enthusiastically in distance learning.

You have learned and excelled in valuable life lessons - to adapt, improvise and overcome. With these lessons, along with all you have learned in life so far from your families, friends and dedicated teachers, I expect you all to continue to achieve great things in life. I am truly in awe. Wherever your life journey takes you in the years ahead, I wish you all much happiness and success.

*"Success is not measured by the heights one attains
but by the obstacles one overcomes in its attainment."*
- Booker T. Washington



Judy Kosmerly
Trustee, Area 3
Rainbow District School Board

Graduates:

You have faced a number of obstacles this school year.

Some were anticipated, others were not.

Some likely caused disappointment.

Alternatively, some of them may have sparked your creativity and ingenuity, creating opportunities that you may otherwise have missed.

Congratulations, graduates, on overcoming the obstacles and achieving success!

Congratulations

Class of 2020



Kerrie St. Jean
Trustee, Area 1
Rainbow District School Board

Graduates, and all those who have supported your journey to this significant milestone, Congratulations!

This school year has brought forth a milestone of achievement not experienced before.

This is truly a momentous occasion, and while we were not able to celebrate in a traditional fashion, it does not diminish your achievement.

As you prepare for the next chapter in life, draw on the innovation and ingenuity that allowed you to persevere, as these skills will serve you well through adulthood.

You have all risen to the challenge and paved a new way for others to experience success in education.

I share with you these wise words from Jane Goodall:

“You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.”

I wish you all the best and look forward to witnessing the positive change your impact makes in our world!

Congratulations

Class of 2020



Margaret Stringer
Trustee, Area 7
Rainbow District School Board

Dear Rainbow graduates,

Graduation is a tremendous accomplishment in normal times.

This year, with the world turned upside down by a global pandemic, your achievement is especially noteworthy, and I congratulate you all!

Though we finally seem to be taking steps back toward “normal”, it’s fair to say that the last few months have been immensely challenging. However, I think that when you look back ten years from now, you will find so many things that you gained. You have had to find ways to be mentally strong, to take care of yourselves, and to reach out for the support you need from family, friends and teachers.

The world we live in has changed dramatically as nations have worked valiantly to keep their people healthy and safe, and sustain them economically. We have seen the critical importance of the work done by people who are poorly paid and often precariously employed. We have seen a shocking level of neglect of our elders living in institutions. We have been confronted with the urgency of addressing systemic racism inherent throughout our institutions.

There can be no doubt that COVID-19 has made you more resilient, self-motivated, flexible, adaptable, creative and strong.

Though the state of our world may be keeping you from walking the stage this June, there is so much more in store for you that can’t be taken away.

Take a moment to think about not just where you want to be in your future but the type of person you want to be and let the values you want to live by guide you through each juncture.

Keep those values close to you as you navigate the adventures and challenges ahead, and help our country, and our world, solve the problems this pandemic has helped us see.

Congratulations

Class of 2020



Debbi Nicholson
President and CEO
Greater Sudbury
Chamber of Commerce

Congratulations on a well-earned graduation, especially during what has been a most challenging final term.

As you begin the next chapter of your life, remember that only you get to write how the story will unfold.

I encourage you to do it with purpose and passion, as the possibilities are limitless.

Dare to be all you can be.

All the best, graduates.



Dr. Penny Sutcliffe
Medical Officer of Health
Public Health
Sudbury & Districts

It is my honour to wish you sincere congratulations on your tremendous accomplishment. Your years of hard work and dedication are to be celebrated. Be proud of your achievements!

I would also like to recognize the new challenges and the uncertainty you are facing - be it the COVID-19 pandemic or the increasing recognition of our need to address social, economic and racial divides in our communities.

As you graduate and head into your exciting next phase, I know you are equipped to thrive and face challenges with compassion and kindness. Rest assured that your accomplishments are not overshadowed.

It is my sincere hope that you find ways to celebrate with family and friends in a COVID-safe way.

Again, please accept my congratulations on your graduation.

I wish you all the best.

Congratulations

Class of 2020



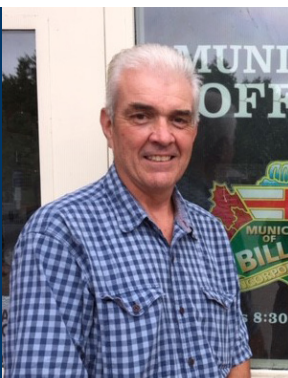
Dave Ham
Mayor
Town of Assiginack
Manitoulin Island

To the graduates of the 2020 class,
What a year you have had! While this was not what you were hoping for as you ended one stage of learning and head into the future, you will be able to look back on this and marvel at how the world was brought to its knees by COVID-19. Yet the people didn't give up, and instead rose to the challenge, and worked together, and conquered a pandemic.

So much of that is credit to you, as you adapted and compromised how you lived and learned, and how you helped keep your community and world safe. You are to be commended.

As in any situation, you can take away some positive outcomes.
Please remember that you stayed home, you kept your community safe, you agreed to learn in a completely new way, and you persevered.
If there is anything this pandemic has taught us, it is that our youth are creative, thoughtful and can be counted on to help.
Those lessons will take you far in life.

On behalf of the community of Assiginack, it is an honour as Mayor to wish you luck in your future. You are all stars and we look forward to seeing you shine!



Ian Anderson
Mayor
Billings Township
Manitoulin Island

Dear graduating students,

In this time of great fear and uncertainty, your successful completion of your studies resulting in your graduation is an inspiration to all of us!

You are experiencing the new normal, and learning another critical life lesson - the ability to cope with sudden and necessary change, and still succeed.

The next generation is in good hands.

You will all play a role in life after a pandemic as we move forward.

I salute you.

Congratulations

Class of 2020



Fr. John Meehan, S.J.
President and Vice-Chancellor
University of Sudbury
at Laurentian University

Dear graduates of the class of 2020,

On behalf of the University of Sudbury, a proud partner of the Laurentian Federation, I would like to congratulate you on your wonderful achievement today!

Although we can't gather in person this year to celebrate your success, we are so proud of all that you have accomplished. As you embark on a new stage of your journey, take with you what you have learned, the wisdom gained from your experiences, knowing that you will go on to do even greater things.

Happiness consists not in what we accumulate but rather in what we give away.

Each of you can transform society by giving your talent, your energy, your desire for change. Together we can make a difference!

Congratulations to you all!



Marc G. Serré
Member of Parliament
Nickel Belt

Congratulations to all graduates from the Rainbow District School Board!
You should feel so proud of your accomplishments.

As you embark on this next chapter, remember to take the lessons you've learned and let them inspire you to reach for your dreams.

Keep cultivating a sense of adventure
and remember to celebrate this achievement despite the challenges!

Have a wonderful summer.

Nickel Belt - Greater Sudbury is rooting for you!

Congratulations

Class of 2020



Jamie West
Member of Provincial
Parliament
Sudbury

Congratulations to the class of 2020!

As a proud Rainbow Schools graduate, I'm excited to share this message with you.

I imagine this is not how you expected to celebrate your graduation day, but the opportunity to celebrate together will come soon.

In the meantime, you should be incredibly proud of the immense effort you put into your studies – especially over the last few months – to be able to graduate. Your graduation is not only a testament to your strength, dedication, and perseverance, it's also symbolic of the incredible things to come in your future.

Graduating from high school is a major accomplishment. I urge you to take time to proudly reflect on the obstacles you have overcome to achieve this goal. Your graduation is truly something to celebrate because it's proof of your hard work and tenacity.

Going forward, there will be times when you will feel buried by obstacles and challenges. Please remember this time - the success that you achieved, and how you grew in 2020.

Congratulations. Please take some time to celebrate safely. You deserve it!



John McHenry
Artistic Director
Sudbury Theatre Centre

My words of wisdom...

Live life to the fullest.

Always be true to yourself.

And, in the great words of Monty Python, *"Always look on the bright side of life"*.

Congratulations

Class of 2020



Brian Bigger
Mayor
City of Greater Sudbury

On behalf of City Council, I want to congratulate the entire Rainbow District School Board high school graduating class of 2020.

As high school graduates in 2020, there is a world ahead of you with more challenges and more opportunities than at any other time in history. Your ability to adapt and persevere during these times, which you have all demonstrated, combined with your knowledge and skills, will undoubtedly serve you well in your future endeavors - whether that's post-secondary education or the workforce.

Wherever you are headed next, remember to work hard and set the bar high for yourself. Make yourself open to new opportunities and ideas and do not be afraid to learn new things.

As the next generation of leaders, never stop questioning why things are the way they are, if there is a better way to do it and if you can be the one to do it.

The world needs the bright and innovative minds from Greater Sudbury's high school classes of 2020 to help solve the problems of today and tomorrow - whether that's fighting climate change, and revolutionizing how we get around or finding a cure for COVID-19, to name a few.

Striving for the best, taking pride in yourself, and fostering a culture of respect should define your legacy to our city.

Last but certainly not least, don't forget to thank your family, friends, teachers, coaches and mentors who are so happy and proud of you for getting to this point. I know they will appreciate it.

Once again, congratulations to the class of 2020!

Congratulations

Class of 2020



Dr. John Gibaut
President, Provost and
Vice-Chancellor
Thorneloe University
at Laurentian University

Congratulations from Thorneloe University at Laurentian on your graduation!
You are the first, and hopefully the last, group of students to graduate in the midst of COVID-19.
The eyes of the world will be looking at your generation, and will take great interest in what you do with your lives in the next few years.

While you are leaving Rainbow Schools, please do not stop learning.
Take all that you have learned, and become life-learners.

For some of you that will mean college or university next year - hopefully at Laurentian - and its federated universities! Some of you might plan to travel in the coming years, or to begin to work at something new. Some of you might still be wondering what on earth you will do with your lives next year.

Life will always offer you something new to learn.
Embrace it, because learning will make you free!

Dear graduates of the class of 2020,

Congratulations on all you have achieved! I encourage you to take time to celebrate and reflect on your educational accomplishments thus far, as they have shaped much of the person you have become, and have likely influenced the next step in your life journey.

Wherever your future path points you, remember that success is often achieved through learning and sharing. It is born from experience and grows through perspective gained by actively engaging passionate, and dedicated people.

Embracing life lessons, found inside and outside of traditional classrooms, will offer you amazing insights, and guide you in becoming a committed and genuine member of the larger community.

You have much to celebrate and look forward to.

I wish you all the best.



Dr. Kevin McCormick
President and
Vice-Chancellor
Huntington University
at Laurentian University

Congratulations

Class of 2020



Al MacNevin
Mayor
Town of Northeastern
Manitoulin and the Islands

A message to the 2020 graduates of Rainbow Schools:

Congratulations to all of you on your achievement.

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the world as we know it.

Now more than ever, we need the hearts and minds of our youth to lead us into the future.

We are counting on your energy and vision to show us the road to renewed prosperity and good health.

Take care and be safe.



Michael Mantha
Member of Provincial
Parliament
Algoma-Manitoulin

Congratulations to you, the class of 2020!

You have graduated, and are now moving on to a new world that is just brimming with opportunities. Some of you will go to college or university, and some will go directly into the workforce. Whatever you choose, the Class of 2020 is a force to be reckoned with.

The challenging days that we are experiencing will surely lead to developing strong character traits, while encouraging a sense of tenacity, both of which will help you succeed in a future that is limitless.

As the MPP for Algoma-Manitoulin, I wish for each and every one of you a lifetime of success and fulfilment.

Enjoy your summer, and get ready for September.

Congratulations graduates! It is well deserved.

Congratulations

Class of 2020



Paul Lefebvre
Member of Parliament
Le député de
Sudbury

Hello everyone. Bonjour tout le monde.

First, congratulations are in order. You've worked so hard, for so many years, to get to graduation day. You should all be very proud of yourselves.

I know graduation, this year, is nothing like you imagined it to be. And the world is a much different place than anyone could have predicted when your classes began.

Right now, you should be celebrating with friends and families, taking pictures in your gowns, attending ceremonies, signing yearbooks and getting ready for the next chapter in your lives. Aucun étudiant ne choisit le monde dans lequel il gradue, mais si vous aviez le pouvoir de le faire, vous n'auriez probablement pas choisi le monde de 2020.

But this pandemic is also teaching us important lessons. For one, it's taught us just how much we need one another. D'abord, on a appris à quel point on a besoin les uns des autres pour concrétiser nos ambitions. You've made real sacrifices to protect your elders. You finished school online. And you've chosen to help out your parents, your neighbours and your community during this tough time.

More has already been asked of you than is reasonable, but you have risen to the challenge. This is what these unprecedented times are teaching you, and reminding us all. Personne ne choisit le monde dans lequel il obtient son diplôme. But you do get to choose the world that will be your legacy.

We are all counting on you, the Class of 2020, to carry on the task of building a better Canada, and a better world.

Congratulations

Class of 2020



Dino Otranto
Chief Operating Officer
North Atlantic Operations
and Asian Refineries
Vale Canada Limited

I consider it an honour to have this opportunity to provide Rainbow Schools' graduating class of 2020 with a message on behalf of Vale.

I know there will be no shortage of recognition for just how unique and challenging of a year this has been in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. You know this all too well, having had your plans, education, extra-curricular activities, and even your graduation ceremony, reimagined.

Despite all this, you have made it – your resilience got you to your graduation day, and it's what you can always lean on when life throws its inevitable curve balls in your road ahead.

During these challenging times, I'm reminded of a quote from Benjamin Franklin... *"Out of adversity comes opportunity."* This is evident in the organization that I oversee, where transformational thinking and flexibility are emerging as the pandemic has forced Vale to rapidly alter how we do our business, protect our workforce, and support our community.

As you embark on your next step in life, I challenge you to look for those opportunities in what can otherwise seem like dark places.

You are the class of 2020.

You have proven that you are more than ready to show the world what it takes to change, grow and weather any storm.

On behalf of Vale, I wish you the sincerest congratulations, and I look forward to welcoming those destined for exciting careers in mining into our Sudbury operations in the future.

Congratulations

Class of 2020



Robert Haché
President and Vice-Chancellor
Recteur et vice-chancelier
Laurentian University
Université Laurentienne

Dear graduates:

Congratulations!

Your successful completion of secondary school studies is an achievement to be proud of.

At a time when the entire world is filled with uncertainty, you have made challenging decisions, worked tirelessly to complete your courses, and have an eye for the future. It is this experience and knowledge that will serve you for the years to come.

As you prepare for the next phase in your journey, know that postsecondary education is preparing for your arrival. We are ensuring the safety of our students, and their path towards a successful future.

Your success is our future success.

Together we can make your goals happen.

Once again, congratulations.

Chers diplômés, chère diplômées,

Félicitations.

La réussite de vos études secondaires est une réussite en soi.

Alors que le monde vit dans l'incertitude, vous avez pris des décisions difficiles et travaillé sans relâche pour terminer vos cours tout en vous tournant vers l'avenir. Ce sont cette expérience et ces connaissances qui vous serviront pendant les années à venir.

Alors que vous vous préparez pour la prochaine étape de votre cheminement, sachez que le secteur de l'enseignement postsecondaire se prépare à vous accueillir. Nous assurons la sécurité de notre population étudiante et facilitons son parcours vers un avenir fructueux.

Votre réussite est notre future réussite.

Ensemble, nous pouvons atteindre vos buts.

Encore une fois, félicitations.

Congratulations
Class of 2020



Frances Gélinas
Member of Provincial
Parliament
La députée de
Nickel Belt

Hello students and graduating class of 2020:

I would like to thank you for your resilience in adapting to the school closures brought on by COVID-19. I know it was not easy, but you succeeded. You were able to continue to learn and maintain your studies.

For the graduating class of 2020, I say - congratulations! You worked hard to reach this milestone. All your efforts over the years have paid off and your big day is finally here.

As a new chapter in your life begins, take a moment to recognize and appreciate where all of your hard work has taken you. Take a minute to thank the teachers, school personnel, family and friends who helped along the way. We are all proud of you and your accomplishments.

And, take a good look ahead, the future is bright.
Life will present many opportunities and adventures and it will be up to you to decide your destiny.

Most of all, take some time to enjoy each and every day.
I know you will do great!
Good luck.

Bonjour aux élèves et aux finissants et finissantes de 2020,

Je tiens à vous remercier de tous vos efforts afin de vous adapter à la fermeture des écoles, imposée par la COVID-19. Je sais que ça n'a pas été facile, mais vous avez réussi. Vous avez continué votre apprentissage et poursuivi vos études.

Félicitations aux finissants et finissantes de 2020 ! Vous avez travaillé fort pour atteindre ce jalon. Tous vos efforts au fil des ans ont porté fruits, le moment tant attendu est enfin arrivé.

Alors qu'un nouveau chapitre de votre vie commence, prenez un moment pour apprécier où tout votre travail vous a menés. Prenez le temps de remercier les enseignant.es, le personnel scolaire, votre famille et vos amies qui vous ont aidés en cours de route. Nous sommes tous fiers de vous et de vos réalisations.

Puis tournez votre regard vers l'avenir, la vie vous offrira de nombreuses possibilités et aventures. Ce sera à vous de décider de votre destin.

Surtout, prenez le temps de profiter de chaque journée.

Je sais que vous allez réussir !
Bonne chance et félicitations.

Congratulations

Class of 2020



Bill Best
President
Cambrian College

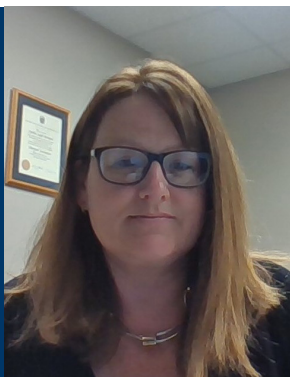
Rainbow Schools graduating class of 2020:

You have a graduation story like no generation before you!

The coping and adaptability skills you've learned over these past few months will serve you well the rest of your life.

The future is yours.

Congratulations.



Cynthia Townsend
Chief Administrative Officer
Town of Espanola

Congratulations on this milestone!

May this success be the first of many as you enter into a whole new world of opportunities and adventure.

We encourage everyone to experience all the world has to offer and to bring that knowledge and experience back to enhance our community.

Congratulations

Class of 2020



Ed Archer
Chief Administrative Officer
City of Greater Sudbury

To the graduating class of 2020,

This is a very proud moment for you, congratulations!

In different circumstances, you'd be gathering with people who care about you – friends, caregivers, family and teachers – to celebrate this great milestone in your life. And I guarantee those people who knew you when you were much younger would recall that younger version of you and be a little nostalgic for those earlier times.

Truly, life moves pretty fast. So please soak up as many memories as you can and trust that whatever lies ahead, you've got support from those around you to help you realize your goals.

Your education prepares you for so many possibilities. Whatever path you choose – post-secondary, trades or vocational programs, military service or the workforce – you have great potential to build a rich and rewarding life.

We all have a stake in your future and want you to feel supported. Your community needs your contributions, ideas and passion just as much as you need it to provide an outlet for your efforts.

Life is richer and more rewarding when you engage with those around you. Friends can help you get through hard times and make celebrating milestones that much better. Make the effort to stay in touch with the people who are close to you. Years from now, you'll be very glad you did.

Remember, learning doesn't stop when you leave the classroom. Among the first things you'll learn next is... how much you still have to learn. Embrace the opportunities to develop new skills and experiences.

I can't wait to hear about your successes as you move into the next chapter of your lives. I have no doubt you will do great things and continue to make our community proud.

Congratulations

Class of 2020



Peter Xavier
Vice President
Sudbury Integrated
Nickel Operations
A Glencore Company

To the class of 2020:

Congratulations on reaching this milestone.

You are likely facing many emotions as you both celebrate your accomplishments but also look ahead to what is next, all the while trying to navigate these unprecedented times.

You will one day look back at the most difficult times in your life as those where you truly have the opportunity to develop.

As you look to the next chapter, focus on what you can control and what decisions you can make to take you towards your passion and goals.

There will be challenges ahead but overcoming difficult challenges will bring you purpose and will be remembered as the most satisfying elements of your life.

Good luck, best wishes, and remember you are not alone.

Your family, friends, community, networks are an important resource to help you get you towards your goals.