

Greetings! My name is Paul Serafimescu, and I am honored to address you as the Valedictorian of the Class of 2020.

I must admit, I never pictured an online graduation, and, I am pretty sure none of us imagined the abrupt ending of our school year! Nevertheless, here we are, Class of 2020; we made it to this happy, celebratory day!

Over the last four years, we have expanded our horizons and dreams thanks to our brilliant teachers to whom we are grateful for keeping us curious and critically thinking about the world.

We have thrived in school due to caring school administrators, counselors, and coaches who got us to this moment despite dealing with many hardships, including natural disasters. You have all made our high school experience unique, while helping us write the blueprint of our future.

With the support and love from our amazing parents, family, and friends, who are right now cheering from a distance as we get our diploma, we proved we can accomplish anything, and not even a pandemic could stop the Class of 2020!

Now, we all know that many things may be forever changed for us, but what remains intact is our solidarity. We all worked together when responding to many critical events that impacted our community, and we can use that to further the greater good: always reach out to see how you can help those in need. Lending a hand, or just an ear, is perhaps the most valuable learning opportunity of all.

As Denzel Washington says: "At the end of the day, it's not about what you have or even what you've accomplished. It's about what you've done with those accomplishments. It's about who you've lifted up, who you've made better. It's about what you've given back."

During our high school years, we built resilience, grit, knowledge, and relationships which are forever engraved in us, and, moving forward in life, I believe that we are the best hope for solving all the coming challenges.

Congratulations Class of 2020, and continue to be strong!