



Beloit Memorial High School
Graduation Ceremony
June 6, 2020

Commencement Speech
Superintendent Sue Green

Congratulations to the Beloit Memorial Class of 2020. Congratulations to your parents and family members who are celebrating this special day with you.

This is indeed a day to celebrate and to reflect on all that you have learned and all that you have accomplished.

Your high school career ended in an extraordinary fashion with our schools being closed because of a world-wide health pandemic. Our hearts were broken by the many things you missed during your senior year. Instead of lingering too long on those losses, please allow yourself time to focus on the many things you gained:

- You have the ability to endure, to be strong – when things feel disappointing and somewhat unknown.
- You have learned to face difficulties – with courage, with tenacity, and with some humor.
- You learned that in tough times, so many people display creativity and find ways to enhance the lives of others.
- You learned about stretching your own abilities - both you and your teachers were able to switch so quickly to a mode of virtual learning, with no warning and no other choices to do otherwise.

Focus on the gift of the special time you had with your parents and family that you would not have had otherwise. Appreciate the unique connectedness YOU have with other seniors throughout the entire WORLD – we have never before experienced this type of global connection. Please focus on the things you learned about YOURSELF:

- YOU ARE resilient.
- YOU CAN endure a hardship, a world-wide hardship.
- You can learn to move forward, learn new ways to do things when a door has been closed to you.
- You have learned about appreciation for things in your daily lives, in your daily routines, things like morning greetings, full and noisy hallways, a handshake or a pat on the back, having lunch with your friends, gathering together to talk and laugh, a kiss or a hug as you leave or arrive home, enjoying sports together, singing together, giving a friend a hug when needed.

When these are suddenly removed, even for a short while, you learn their importance in your life – you come to know how very precious these things are. May you take these lessons with you into your adult life – to treasure and appreciate those things in your life that are routine – for they are often the things that give our lives stability and meaning.

As you take the next steps after graduation, our hope for you is that you will find YOUR path to a job or a career that is rewarding and satisfying. Take care of yourself – stay healthy, find balance between work and fun, take pride in the choices you make, find joy in your life.

We hope that you find ways to serve, to support, and to enrich the lives of others. And, we hope that you will continue to find time and ways to keep learning!

You have a bright future ahead of you and you are equipped to do your best and find success, perhaps better than those who have gone before you / because of what you have experienced this year.

YOU have learned a DEEPER Meaning to being BELOIT STRONG.

The School District of Beloit extends to you a heartfelt congratulations on ALL of your accomplishments.

Well done, Class of 2020.

Mrs. Sue Green,
Interim Superintendent for the School District of Beloit