

# Class of 2020, you are the product of change

The graduating class of 2020, you're special. It's the first year of a new decade. You were born into the world with the aftermath of 9/11 as your backdrop. Changing things. That was the theme then, and that is the theme as you begin your own journeys through life.

Your final days of school were cut short. You missed prom, your spring sports and those final days walking the halls saying goodbye to teachers and friends. It was your rite of passage from this chapter to the next. You handled it well. Those are days that will never return, but it will make your first class reunion so special. In the meantime, keep those bonds alive.

You will be part of history. Your class will be part of history lessons. The future will see all the unique ways you showed you could adapt to change and adversity. Instead of just giving up, you showed up. In the past several weeks, you worked with school administration and teachers to come up with a plan. You compromised, willingly. And those are qualities you will carry with you throughout life. No matter how bleak the circumstance may seem, you can show up and be

part of the change. Now is not only a time for you to be an example, it's also a time to learn. You have joined the ranks of your grandparents who began their adult lives amid adversity and struggle. Think about all those that have gone before you. Ask your grandparents about their high school years. Many of you know someone who was shipped off to war before their high school graduation, earning their diplomas years later. Some didn't make it home.

Some of your grandparents lived through the struggle of integration. Imagine having been part of the first graduating integrated class. Think about the struggles many students faced on both sides. They persevered. They changed and adapted. The closeness of those friendships is still evident today. Talk to them. Ask them their stories. And most importantly, listen. One day in your future, it might be you answering those questions.

All these students made their way into the world in a time of uncertainty and change. Because of them, you are here, and you are a testament to the strength of people. So, don't let people tell you positive change

## Around the Greene

By ANNETTE HARVISON

Herald Staff Writer



can't happen. The world is changing. You will be the leaders of change. Your actions will affect your future. It will affect your children's futures. Think about how you want history to remember you.

As you begin to make your way into the military, the medical field, the education system, construction, your own business and the many other things you all will become, you will meet new people. They will come from different areas of the country, or the world. Not everyone will have the same backgrounds and perspective, and some of these things will clash. That's life. If everyone thought the same, there would be no progress.

Keep a positive focus because positivity is contagious. Keep a humble attitude because you don't know what's going on in the life of the person next to you. Remember the changes you make will affect the lives of your

grandchildren. You are navigating a challenging time, and your outcome is up to you.

You have come a long way since those kindergarten days, and you have many more great days ahead of you. You have done an outstanding job together, and together, you can do great things for the future. Congratulations to the seniors of 2020, and good luck to all of you.

**Congratulations**  
**KJ BULLARD**

**WE ARE PROUD OF YOU!**

*We love you!* Your Family

**Nathan MATHIS**

**Congratulations**  
**We're Proud Of You!**

Love,  
PawPaw Bo, MawMaw Leavy  
and Anut Angle

*Class of*  
**2020**

And the Lord, He is the One who goes before you. He will be with you, He will not leave you nor forsake you; do not fear nor be dismayed."  
Deuteronomy 31:8

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Leakesville Elementary School  
4TH GRADE GRADUATE

**AN'DASHIA & ANGELA'LASHIA FRANKS**  
Leakesville Junior High School  
8TH GRADE GRADUATES

**TO OUR DAUGHTERS AND SON,**

Congratulations and best wishes for the future. WE want you guys to know that we are proud of you. You guys are about to have a new beginning, new goals and new opportunities. Be bold, be courageous, be your best. Follow your dreams, believe in yourself and don't give up!

LOVE YOU,  
Mom & Dad  
(Kim and Angelo Franks)

Good Luck  
from your Grandparents, Aunts,  
Uncles and Cousins

**CONGRATULATIONS**

*Class of*  
**2020**

**GREENE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL WILDCATS**

**Jordan Evans**

*We Love You!* Mom, Dad, Sheneice, RJ & Amauri

**Stacey Ray Walley**  
First Assembly Christian Academy

Congratulations!  
We are so proud of you!  
God has great things planned for you and we can't wait to see what He does through you!  
Love,  
Mom, Dad, and Layton