

Class of 2020

Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life. Don't let the noise of others' opinions drown out your own inner voice. And most importantly, have the courage to follow your heart and intuition. They somehow already know what you truly want to become. Everything else is secondary.
~ Steve Jobs

Stay Hungry. Stay Foolish.

From Stanford University's 2005 Commencement Address given by Steve Jobs, CEO of Apple Computers,

When I was 17, I read a quote that went something like: "If you live each day as if it was your last, someday you'll most certainly be right." It made an impression on me, and since then, for the past 33 years, I have looked in the mirror every morning and asked myself: "If today were the last day of my life, would I want to do what I am about to do today?" And whenever the answer has been "No" for too many days in a row, I know I need to change something.

Remembering that I'll be dead soon is the most important tool I've ever encountered to help me make the big choices in life. Because almost everything - all external expectations, all pride, all fear of embarrassment or failure - these things just fall away in the face of death, leaving only what is truly important. Remembering that you are going to die is the best way I know to avoid the trap of thinking you have something to lose. You are already naked. There is no reason not to follow your heart.

Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life. Don't be trapped by dogma - which is living with the results of other people's thinking. Don't let the noise of others' opinions drown out your own inner voice. And most important, have the courage to follow your heart and intuition. They somehow already know what you truly want to become. Everything else is secondary.

No one wants to die. Even people who want to go to heaven don't want to die to get

there. And yet death is the destination we all share. No one has ever escaped it. And that is as it should be, because death is very likely the single best invention of life. It is life's change agent. It clears out the old to make way for the new. Right now the new is you, but someday not too long from now, you will gradually become the old and be cleared away. Sorry to be so dramatic, but it is quite true.

When I was young, there was an amazing publication called The Whole Earth Catalog, which was one of the bibles of my generation. It was created by a fellow named Stewart Brand not far from here in Menlo Park, and he brought it to life with his poetic touch. This was in the late 1960s, before personal computers and desktop publishing, so it was all made with typewriters, scissors, and polaroid cameras. It was sort of like Google in paperback form.

Stewart and his team put out several issues of The Whole Earth Catalog, and then when it had run its course, they put out a final issue. It was the mid-1970s, and I was your age. On the back cover of their final issue was a photograph of an early morning country road. Beneath it were the words: "Stay Hungry. Stay Foolish." It was their farewell message as they signed off. Stay Hungry. Stay Foolish. And I have always wished that for myself.

And now, as you graduate to begin anew, I wish that for you.

Six things to do before leaving home for college

Getting ready for your last high school prom and counting down the days till graduation are all you can think about. Yes, freedom and plans for a fun-filled Summer are just around the corner. Before you know it, you'll be loading up your belongings in the family minivan and headed off to college. You're so ready, right? Well, maybe not. Here are some tips for things to do this Summer before you head off to college.

Downsize, get organized and learn how to do your own laundry

You're not going to be able to take your whole closet and every cherished belonging with you to the dorm. Start downsizing now and make a list of all the things you'll need to take with you. A clean and tidy space will make things a lot more manageable. Most likely you'll go home a time or two on break and you can swap out things that you don't need for things that you do. But, in between those trips home, you'll need to learn how to do laundry. Those whites can turn into some interesting colors and transform into a smaller size if you don't know your way around a washer and dryer.

Understand your financial situation

Each family's situation is different - make sure you understand what your family may or may not be able to contribute. You should've already applied for financial aid. If not, you need to complete the Free Application For Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) ASAP! Make sure you list on the application the school code of the college you plan to attend so your information is sent to that school. If you still haven't decided it's best to list any school you think you may attend. The financial aid office will then notify you of any financial aid you might be eligible for. Know what each of those types of aid is and in what order you should accept them. Visit StudentAid.gov for information on planning and paying for college. Do you have enough money to pay for school? Will you need

to work part-time? Make a budget and know what you can spend on certain things.

Get a good calendar and prepare for a whole new world of time management

One of the biggest challenges for a lot of you will be time management. When you head off to college, you won't have somebody there to wake you up, make you breakfast and send you out the door in clean clothes with completed homework in hand. Set yourself up early with a class schedule (make a course syllabus your new best friend) and a system that works for you. You need to know deadlines for registration, papers, financial aid, coursework and everything in between. Your chance of succeeding academically will rapidly evaporate if you don't manage your time well.

Learn how to keep you and your things safe!

Yes, you need to remember to lock your dorm room and place that lock on your laptop. Losing your laptop can wreak havoc on your studies and a theft due to an unlocked door can also ruin your relationship with your roommate. Start practicing being more aware of your surroundings and keeping yourself safe. Program your school's campus security number into your phone. You never know when you might need it. Safety also applies to protecting your Social Security number, PIN and passwords. Your Social Security number is one of the main identifiers when checking on things like financial aid, grades, and registering for classes. Make sure all your passwords and important numbers are not on a post-it-note on your desk. Store them in a secure place. Not protecting your identity and important information can have lasting long-term effects on your ability to get a job and apply for credit.

Embrace coupons and master the art of a good deal

Another difficult thing to learn is skipping those unnecessary splurges. Yes, I know it's all about YOLO but you need to embrace BOGO. Coupons aren't

just for stay at home moms anymore. Scoring deals whether in newspapers, magazines or with online sites like Groupon and Living Social it's easier than ever. But don't get so caught up in the deals that you buy vouchers for and you don't end up using. That can cost rather than save you money. Save those splurges for when you score a great "Buy One Get One" free or other greatly discounted offer. Ask about student discounts and if available a student advantage card. Start practicing this Summer. It'll impress your friends and it'll be a little more money in your pocket when you get to campus. Another great way to save money is buying used textbooks rather than new. Search sites like bigwords.com, Amazon, and TextbooksRUs to name a few. If you buy new and then resell them back to the college bookstore check online sites first for what they're worth. College bookstore buy back rates are sometimes as low as 10% of what you paid for it new. Lots of students are also now renting textbooks on sites like chegg.com.

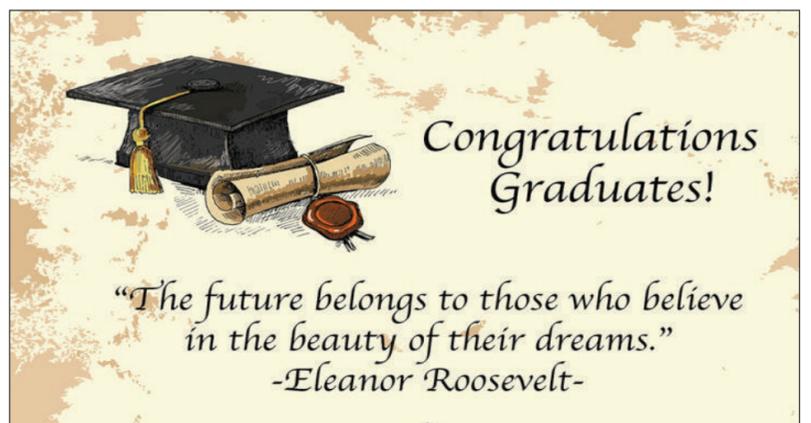
Craft a good resume and learn how to network

No, don't wait until you're approaching college graduation to write a cover letter and resume, you need one now. Having a compelling and professional resume and cover letter is vital to applying for part-time jobs, internships, etc. You might want to also consider changing your email address. Employers probably won't be impressed with an email address like justheretoparty@XXmail.com. Work experience can be just as important as good grades when looking for jobs after college graduation. Internships not only provide you with knowledgeable experiences in your field, but they also provide great networking opportunities. Don't settle in and nest, put yourself out there and go to as many networking events as possible.

Congratulations on a job well done and making the decision to advance your education!



Proudly supporting the future of Seminole county!



Congratulations to our Seniors!



Emma Chloe Arnold and Chandler Alday

Friendship United Methodist Church

May God richly bless your lives.

Do not follow where the path may lead. Go, instead, where there is no path and leave a trail.

-Ralph Waldo Emerson