


Class of 2020

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

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

From Superintendent of Schools Mark Earnest



Seminole County Middle/High School  
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Donalsonville, Georgia 39845  
Main 229-524-5135 • Fax 229-524-5178

Dear Class of 2020,

Friday, May 22, 2020, is the day many of you have been dreaming of since you began your school career. Just a few months ago you were excited that you were finally Seniors. How the world has changed since Thursday, March 12th! Your class of 2020 will definitely be remembered in the history of our school and in our country. In just three months, those traditional images of graduations across the country, and life as we know it, are not the same for anyone. Unfortunately, many traditional Senior experiences did not occur for the Class of 2020. However, take a step back and reflect on all of the positive experiences you have been blessed to have achieved.

As educators and guardians of children, we are often compared to a potter, as we have the unique privilege of helping form the clay in front of us into an individual masterpiece. As the saying goes, "It takes a tribe to raise (and mold) a child." You, the metaphorical piece of clay, have begun to form into who you will become with the help of many people and events surrounding you for the last 18 years. Other people, events and your eventual career will continue to shape you and your thoughts into the greatness you will continue to become.

Some of your classmates will report to work, seminary school, technical school, college or military duty the week after May 22nd and their lives will never be the same as they begin forming into new shapes from their existing clay mold. Others of you will begin your next phase in the near future as you await your anticipated start. Your transformation will continue throughout the remainder of your lifespan. It is up to you to adhere to the lessons you have been shown or taught by those who have helped mold you for your first 18 years. Your foundational shape given to you by those of Seminole County and your family members will be the basis of who you are in the future. Those original "potters" will always be there for you to celebrate your achievements and to help you when times become tough.

The world is never going to be the same as it was before March, 2020. Your class will surely never be forgotten for multiple reasons and achievements. It is up to you to make the world and the clay that will be put in your hands a masterpiece, much like yourself.

Be proud of the shape you have been formed into by those around you because one day you will mold the next generation. Thank you for who you are and who you will become. Never forget this class of 2020 and that you will always represent Seminole County - which is truly an honor. I, and the staff at Seminole County Middle High School, wish you the best in your future, and CONGRATULATIONS on graduating in this memorable 2020 Senior class!

Once an Indian, always an Indian!

Shane Purdy, SCMHS Principal

SEMINOLE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
203 East 6th Street  
Donalsonville, GA 39845

Dear Seminole County High School Class of 2020,

Congratulations! You've made it to the final stretch, rounded the corner, and you are about to become the Seminole County High School Class of 2020. Despite the COVID-19 madness that swirls around us, forcing us to close our schools, I can promise that you will be given the opportunity to become graduates of Seminole County as the Class of 2020.

I know, and your parents and families know; you are disappointed, upset, confused, and sad - this was not how the last three months of your senior year was supposed to go. You missed out on being able to enjoy the final months of your senior year - hanging out with your friends, dreaming about one last summer before you all head in different directions. You lost experiences like competing with your classmates on spring sports teams, the chance to attend senior prom, the chance to "cram" with your friends for your AP exam. It is natural that you may be feeling sad - this situation has certainly created a sense of loss.

You are no stranger to adversity. Nineteen years ago, you entered the world at another tumultuous time - when the world, post 9-11, was forced to adjust and change our way of life as a result of the worst terrorist attack our country has ever experienced. You were our first students who've always had to go through security checks when going to a professional event, or have always had to take off your shoes when going through airport security. You came into the world during a time of chaos, and chaos is now ushering you out of high school and pushing you into adulthood. You are used to uncertainty, and you know how to handle unpredictable time.

Maya Angelou once said, "You may encounter many defeats, but you must not be defeated. In fact, it may be necessary to encounter the defeats, so you can know who you are, what you can rise from, how you can still come out of it."

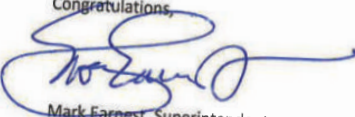
There is wisdom in her words. Life is not an endless series of pleasant experiences - we all learn from adversity. We learn about our character, our resolve, and we develop plans to move us forward.

With what you have experienced over the years, and especially now, you are not rookies in the game of life. You are veterans, with a lot of playing time left, and plenty more to learn and share with others. As a graduate of Seminole County, you are ready for career, college, and life. Everyone in our school system is going to do everything in our power to help you get to the finish line.


I am proud of your dedication and resolve. I admire your ability to face adversity and keep moving forward. While it may not be the senior year ending that you dreamed of, it will be your senior year, unique among your peers, and you will reap the rewards. Stay flexible, stay patient, and be ready for your next chapter.

Remember, you won't only become members of the Seminole County High School graduating Class of 2020, you also become members of the Seminole County community. This is your home, regardless of where you end up living, studying, and working. We have enjoyed watching you learn and grow, and look forward to seeing you succeed in all you choose to do.

Good luck, and remember that you are always welcome here!

Congratulations,  
  
Mark Earnest, Superintendent

From SCMHS Principal Shane Purdy



Seminole County Elementary School  
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Dear SCES Kindergarten graduates!

Congratulations Kindergarten graduates! You've reached your first milestone in your educational career! As your new Principal, I look forward to sharing the next five years with you at Seminole County Elementary School. You will make many great memories and have many exciting experiences as you continue to grow and develop into the person that you are going to become. I can't wait to meet you all in August. It is my hope that you have a great Summer full of fun and excitement and return to SCES ready to learn.

See you in August!!  
Jay Winkler  
Principal, Seminole County Elementary School

From SCES Principal Jay Winkler


Congratulations, Graduates!

Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity. I Timothy 4:12

Seminole County Probate and Magistrate Court

Judge Michael Jon Rogerson, Susan Brooks, Kristy Wilson and Marvella Pitts

Seminole County Schools Congratulate Every Graduate!



As you celebrate your graduation, remember with pride the hard work and dedication it has taken to get where you are. We're proud of each and every graduate, and wish you success in the future.

Learning Today, Succeeding Tomorrow - Every Student, Every Day!