

Class of
2020

Try not to become a man of success, but rather try to become a man of value.

~ Mark Twain

For the 2020 graduates - expressions of praise, photographs, and encouraging words . . .

All of that and more in the 2020 *Donelsonville News* Graduation Edition

Seminole County High School Honor Graduates Page 4 B	Seminole County High School Class of 2020 Senior Photos Beginning on Page 15 B	Southwest Georgia Academy Class of 2020 Senior Photos Beginning on Page 24 B
Letters to the graduates from Superintendent Mark Earnest, SCMHS Principal Shane Purdy and SCES Principal Jay Winkler Page 6 B	Seminole County High School Scholarship and Award recipients Beginning on Page 20 B	Seminole County Elementary School 2020 Kindergarten Graduates Beginning on Page 26 B

Congratulations, Graduates!

We're counting on you!

An up-side-down ending to the journey local graduates began more than twelve years ago has been a bittersweet pill to swallow. Social distancing, and additional precautions put in place to slow the spread of the COVID-19 crisis, cancelled plans and events and effectively flattened and deflated end-of-year graduation excitement. It was certainly sad, and heartbreaking, to see the disappointment on the students' faces; however, don't think for one minute that the lack of in person celebrations lessens in any way the accomplishment of earning and receiving your high school diploma. No way. Each graduate earned this one, with hard work and dedication, and I am so very proud of each and every member of the Class of 2020 for a job well done.

So, with that said, let's start talking about your future . . .

It's graduation time, but graduates, I am sorry to tell you the tests don't end, they just change. Sorry to tell you the grades don't stop coming, they just come in a different way. Sorry to tell you the homework assignments don't end, they just become projects for work or college.

It might be a cliché, and one you'll hear plenty of from upcoming Valedictorian, Salutatorian and guest speaker addresses, but you are the future of Donelsonville, the future of Seminole County and beyond.

For years, we (your parents, relatives and friends) have pressured you to complete your assignments, study for your tests and get to class on time. This isn't because we like being a pest; it's more selfish than that. We're counting on you.

For years, we've told you to tuck in your shirt, stand up straight and use your manners. This isn't because we like telling you what to do; it's more selfish than that. We're counting on you.

For years, we've challenged you to take tougher classes, participate in extra-curricular activities and be careful with those you call your friends. This isn't because we are trying to control your life; it's more selfish than that. We're counting on you.

Whether you've attended a public school or a private school, the investment made in your future has been well into the thousands of dollars — the tens of thousands of dollars. In short, you are an investment we are counting on to show a return.

Whether you plan to attend college, a technical college or no college, is irrelevant to the expectations we have of you.

What we expect is that you return the favor, that you make an investment back into Donelsonville, into Seminole County, into the community that has done so much for you and your future.

What we expect is for you to be the type of men and women we know you can be and be a good example to those who follow you.

You have been given a gift of education; don't squander it. Instead, turn it into something great, turn it into something you — and those who have given you this gift — will be tremendously proud of one day.

Graduation is simply the period of one sentence; it is not the end of the story. What you do with this story is completely up to you, but you



Impressions


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your world. As far as I am concerned, you have been doing that all year long. Don't stop now.

Learn, live and leave your mark on the world. As you embark on the next journey in the quest of your dreams we look forward to bigger and brighter reasons for you to make us proud. And remember, we are counting on you and we will be watching and rooting for you all the way.

Comments and impressions are requested and welcomed at donelsonvillenews.com



Congratulations to all the 2020 graduates!


"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."
- Proverbs 22:6

from your friends in the office of the

Seminole County Tax Commissioner

Leslie Johnson, Paula Faircloth and Amanda McMillan


Congratulations to



Harry Wyatt Willis

son of Kevin and Cynamon Willis and grandson of Harry and Cheryl McDonald


Valwood Class of 2020



Nothgiel Peavy

daughter of Lavonjia Peavy and Anthony Lee


Seminole County High School



Jashawn Glenn

son of LaShanda Glenn and Chris Lee

Seminole County High School



Rashawn Glenn

son of LaShanda Glenn and Chris Lee

Seminole County High School

and all 2020 Graduates!

The future looks bright. You're about to begin a new chapter in life, and the story is yours to write. Today is just the beginning, so keep up the good work and make every day count.

We wish you all the best, every step of the way.

Three Notch EMC

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