

To the Mustang High School Class of 2026

By Charles Bradley
School Superintendent



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Every great story starts the same way...Something happens that changes everything.

Graduation Day feels like one of those moments. You walk across a stage, shake a hand, and celebrate everything you have accomplished. But what makes this moment different is not what just happened. It is what comes next.

For years, your focus has been on getting to this moment. Now it is here, your next chapter is about to unfold, and your "something that changes everything" has arrived.

The exposition is over. This is where your story begins.

I recently heard someone say, "No risk, no story," and the more I thought about it, the more it stuck with me. Because when you really think about it, the most meaningful moments in life,

the ones worth telling and retelling, almost always begin with a choice. A step forward. A decision to try.

So, as you begin choosing what your future may hold, let me challenge you to:

- Learn to navigate the space between courage and wisdom. Not every decision you face will be obvious. In fact, most won't. You will find yourself standing in moments when the outcome is uncertain, the next page is unwritten, there is no clear guarantee of success, and the easier option is to just play it safe. But those are often the choices

that matter most. Mike Singletary once said, "It's a very thin line to know if it's courage that I need right now, or if it is wisdom?" There will be times when courage asks you to move forward, and times when wisdom asks you to pause. The key is not always getting that choice right; it is learning from each decision you make. That is how you grow. That is how you build judgment. And that is how you prepare yourself for whatever the next page holds.

- Just as importantly, engage fully in the life you are building. There is a tendency to treat life like a checklist. Graduate. Get the job. Reach the next milestone. Then the next. But if you are not careful, you can spend so much time planning your future that you forget to actually live it. The life you are building is not just found in big decisions or major milestones. It is shaped in the way you show up each day. In the conversations

you have, the effort you give, and the way you treat people. Be fully present in those moments. Pay attention. Invest in the people around you. Say the encouraging word. Offer the compliment. Take the time to connect. Those choices may seem small, but they are what give your story meaning and depth.

- Finally, remember: no risk, no story. That does not mean every risk will work out the way you hoped, and it does not mean being reckless. It means being willing to recognize the moment when it matters, and not missing your "something that changes everything." Do not let your story be defined by what was easy or expected. Let it be defined by the chances you took, the effort you gave, and the moments when you chose to step forward instead of standing still. Be willing to try. Be willing to fail. Be willing to learn. And then, be willing to try again.

The future ahead of you is wide open and does not come with a script. There will be decisions to make, risks to take, and moments you will not fully understand until much later. Trust yourself. You are more prepared than you realize.

I implore each of you, just as I have for the classes before you, to acknowledge, respect, and celebrate the differences among people. Be sure to always take the opportunity to find out more about what you have in common with someone instead of focusing on what separates or divides you. Listen. Empathize. Practice understanding and grace, and be kind. You are about to become the Mustang Public Schools Class of 2026. And no matter where your story takes you, you will always be part of the Mustang Bronco Family. This is your home. It always will be.

We are proud of you. We are excited for what comes next. And we will miss you.

MUSTANG GRADUATES NOT PICTURED: Abel Manoj Abraham, Albertina Esposito, Gabriella Skye Aldrich, Ryan Kenneth Ayers, Paige Bradley Basinger, Treyce Jordon Bass, Lucis James Bechel, Wesley Christopher Beddingfield, Aubrey Lynn Bingham, Parker Myles Bloomer, Mason William Bolinsky, Emily Rose Bostrom, Rebekkah Fae Bostwick, JaDa Christine Brown, Sloan Michael Bruehl, Nikolia Zandir Burgin, Jorge Emilio Calleros Cedillo, Franco Cambron, Diego CaroFierro, Lyfe Ezequiel Carraman, Hunter Carusetta, Ava Elizabeth Cevallos, Annalise Hazel ChristianArena, Henley Viola Conrad, Destiny Contreras, BaileyAnn Lucille Cox, Aiden Gene Cunningham, Darius Joseph Davenport, Rielly Christine Davis, Lotus William Doten, Zane Maximus Douglass, Gage Landon Dowdle, Zoie Clair Doyel, Colton Scott Driscoll, Madalynn Jean Driskell, Hayden Bradley Duncan, Titan Blue Edwards, Peyton Henry Ellis, Alexander Joaquin Escobar, Paige Geraldine Estes, Keira Danelle Ezernack, Lizeth Fierro, Miranda Dolores Flores, Braylin Jerome Glover, Trenton Blake Golden, Taylea Mercedes Graham, Joel Michael Grauberger, Ireland Makalee Greer, Sherri Michele Gros, Londynn Tyler Hagan, Hayden Forrest Hames, Kandi Arielle Harding, Ashlyn Leigh Hardwick, Rylee Kaycen Harper, Seth Allyn Harrell, Kaiya Cherie Harrison, Valeria Hernandez, Amberly Sophia Herrera, Zackary Alan Hinderer, Emily Mae Householder, Hannah Nicole Houston, Carter Jonathan Ingersoll, Gabriel Giovanni Jackson, Kaydence Denise Jackson, DWan Lamont Johnson, Timothy James Johnston, Jeremiah Ray Jones, Dunia Hussein Kareem, Cameren Ryan Kellebrew, Presley Sharee Kersey, Jazz Soraya Khodabakhsh, Cara Diane Kaye Killingsworth, Derek Takeru Kilpatrick, Matthew Hunter Lee, Dennys Rafael Lizaro, Dyvina Paloma LopezCalderon, Koreon Jermaine LoveHall, Chase Thomas Luber, Leslie Lynn Lucas, Myleigh Paige Lunnen, Emily Nichole Martinez, Malachi Massenburg, Kevin James Mattson, Jordan Lynn McCarty, Autumn Suzann McHolland, Jackson Alexander Megehee, Sergio Joaquin MendozaCorona, Gavin Kole Milligan, Kiran Rian Milligan, Taty'ana Lanae Morgan, Nashoba Ryder Murphy, ChrisTian Chanelle Muse, Sofia Grace Nappi, Sadie Sue Newton, Braxton RileyAnh Nguyen, Tri Quoc Nguyen, Alyssa Ann Parnell, Serena Sanjay Patel, Eternity Eugenia Pepper, Cristobal PerezSanchez, Katelyn Kae Perrine, Ramsey Alondra Pizarro, Romello Kamarion Powers, Linda Faye Presnell, Megan Rene Prodoehl, Esmeralda Ramirez, Liviana Reed Ramirez, Sebastian Miguel Rangel, Landon Michael Rutherford, Christian James Sanchez, Zachaeus Scallion, Jasmine Schultz, Alondra Serna, Layla Marie Shaw, Isaac Phiron Simmons, Brooklyn Smith, Elaina Jade Smith, Jaidyn Chase Smith, Alajiah Stanfield, Chandler Isaac Stinson, Hyrum Lee Stott, Natalie Kay Stout, Derek Michael Straughn, Jeremiah Washington Summers, Marissa Dawn Sumpter, MiKayla Monay Sumpter, Riley Allan Taylor, Zachary Paul Thach, Emma Reese Thomas, Xavier Deshondrick Thompson, Khue HoNgoc Tran, Tony Trang, Christal Raine Tuma, Julio Maximilian Vera, Maximiliano Dael Vera, Michael Ryan Vincent, Koby DaShon Williams, Jamaya Williams Cagle, Cane Mitchell Wood, Tyler Scott Yarborough