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GRADUATION SPEECH
CLASS OF 2019

Good morning, beautiful people. You look marvelous! Like your parents and teachers, I take great pride and joy in your achievements. But as a father and lifelong teacher myself, **I care most about your character.** Ultimately, **who you are as a person** will determine your lifelong success, fulfillment and happiness. Having a **strong character** involves:

- Hard work
- Perseverance
- Grit
- Resilience
- Passion
- Determination
- And reaching down to give others a hand up

As I thought about my words to deliver to you today, I wanted to make an impact, so felt it incumbent upon me as your Superintendent, to share a few words of wisdom based on my own life experiences. So I developed my **Top 10 List of “Always and Nevers”**: a list I want you to always remember.

10. Never bully or hurt another person.
9. Never post anything on social media that you don't want your future employer to see
8. Never put pineapple on pizza. (Most profound.)
7. Always RSVP, even if you aren't attending the event.
6. Always wear crazy socks – (show socks)
5. Always turn off your cell phone and talk to someone.
4. Never give a fruitcake as a gift.
3. Always send a handwritten thank you note as soon as you receive a gift.
2. Always work hard and be kind.
1. Never be afraid to say “I'm sorry,” and always say “I love you,” because leading with love is a position of strength.

On that note, congratulations. I love each and every one of you. Job well done.

#PROUD