

The end of another school year is upon us. Classes have been taking field trips and enjoying the spoils of a year of hard work. Then, there are finals. Time to prove you were paying attention.

Anxious seniors are ready to don their caps and gowns and make that last walk before the next phase of their lives begin. I don't know about anyone else but I took a quick peek at my diploma to make sure it was signed. I wasn't worried, I just wanted to make sure.

For those who have loved high school, it may be bittersweet. They've thrown themselves into activities and athletics and made the most of the time they spent there. Friends will be going different directions.

For those who would prefer to stay because they're not sure about their next step, hitch up those britches. It's time to move one. Everything has an order and you're only supposed to do high school for four years. Then you have to do something else. Sorry.

For those who found high school a little less than they thought it should be, trust me, there is life after. It's just something we all have to do so we can transition to the next level, whichever that may be. I think you'll find there is a lot more ahead of you than you've left behind.

For those who can't wait to get out and get as far away from here as possible, I completely understand. I felt the same way. I move 240 miles away so no one would know me or my business and guess what – no one knew me or my business and therefore, no one cared. It's wasn't as good as it sounded.

If you noticed, I'm somewhat contradictory. That's the problem. Life is contradictory. We think we know everything about everything and in reality, we know jack. That's why you need to pay attention in high school. Get all the ammunition you can to face the world when it's over no matter what path you choose.

That diploma you will receive means something. It's a symbol of a right of passage. You've accomplished something. If it came easy, great. If you had to work your butt off for it, the accomplishment means more. Be proud regardless.

## **Let the mortar boards fly**

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You are about to embark on an adventure. It will be what you make it. It doesn't matter if you are going to college, going to work or going into the service, you control your destiny.

So if you're super excited to start the next part of your life, scared to death or just relieved to have it over – let the mortar boards fly. In the end, all that matters is that you made through.