

Thank you Mr. Vaughn.

Good Afternoon, on behalf of the Park Tudor student body it is my pleasure to extend a warm welcome to everyone here to celebrate the Class of 2019.

This is a class of go-getters. Academic super stars, team captains, and student leaders that enriched school clubs and fine arts. This Park Tudor Senior Class sacrificed their weeknights and weekends to improve the entire Park Tudor community.

As I have followed the class of 2019, it has been amazing to watch the accomplishments of these 91 students. They are attending 52 different universities, in 19 states plus the District of Columbia. This class produced 12 national merit finalists, and three presidential scholars semifinalists. They achieved these goals not just because of their brilliance, but their willingness to forge relationships with faculty members to guide them to academic success.

The class of 2019's triumphs in the classroom have continued on the athletic fields. They led their teams by mentoring the underclassmen while also making Park Tudor History. In the fall, the Women's soccer team made it to their first ever semi state. And gave us the greatest spectacle in the sectional championship. The men's tennis team went to the state finals for an 8th consecutive year. And it was a group of seniors that decided to bring softball back to PT's athletic lineup. The Park Tudor family has been very fortunate to experience 4 semi states, two Marion County titles, and 21 conference championships. They have given us the opportunity to be immersed in Panther madness, from their freshman year to today.

This class is also leaving their mark in the fine arts department. Beginning their freshman year they have been active participants in the music department, theatre, and visual arts. Their talents have been inspiring, energizing Ayres Auditorium with amazing performances such as anything goes, and legally blonde while enhancing the halls with their artistic abilities.

But what I love most about this class is their willingness to strive for social justice and raise the awareness for groups that are underrepresented, and historically mistreated. When they see someone is being put down because of their ethnicity, gender, or religion, They have consistently enlightened and educated the student body with their presentations, activism, and discussions through open mic nights.

In the past Park Tudor has produced famous poets, philanthropists, scientists, CEO's and professional athletes. This year we added another accomplishment to our alumnis accolades. JB Rogers, was a part of the production team that won an OSCAR for the movie The Green Book. The Green Book is a fitting film for this year, because the class of 2019, much like the main characters in The Green Book, crossed barriers and grew friendships without regard to social expectations or barriers of race, gender, sexuality, or opposing points of view.

When I look around at the class of 2019 I know that we will be talking about your accomplishments in years to come. But along the way as you forge your own path do not forget to take the experiences, and education you received at Park Tudor and know you always have a home -- in Panther Nation.

Congratulations Class of 2019!

Adam Katz