

Pakingdam Laurenda Lamboni  
Class of 2022

Welcome, class of 2022. The high school path was long, fun and miserable all at the same time. Now this journey is coming to a close. Thank the lord Jesus we don't have to go through this again. I would like to thank all who are present here. Your efforts were pivotal in making this day happen. I would also like to send a special thank you prayer to God for bringing this day to us, it truly is a light at the end of the four year tunnel. Thank you Mr. Garrick and a great thank you to our school board led by the president, Mr. Doug Heil. Welcome to all our dear family members and friends who have gathered here to celebrate with us. And I do not speak for myself when I express a deep gratitude for the school administrators, especially our teachers. Your continuous support has time and time again been seen through each graduating class. Thank you for the care you put into preparing us for the next chapter of our lives.

Dear class of 2022, where did all the time go? Four years ago, what seemed close to last week, we first met each other at our orientation, and now four years later we're ready to graduate. I think we can all agree that the light at the end of the tunnel seemed too far to be real, but here we are. Remember our freshmen year, were we were at the bottom of the cast system? Very fun, yes? How about our sophomore year, when we thought we were getting that two week long spring break? I think we might have celebrated a bit too early for that one. And Junior year. We don't talk about that one. I think we would all like to put hybrid learning behind us (may it rest in peace). Now this year. This year we got a mix of normal and post-covid. But I truly believe we made the most of each moment.

Before walking into freshmen hall way, the words "be who you are and be that well" are displayed above the doors. This is message that was clearly aimed to guide what kind of attitude we should have for the four years that were ahead of us. I think we stayed true to that attitude. We are such a diverse group of individuals, proud to display our talents and gifts that make each of us unique. We're class of champions like no other. We've got champions both on and off the field, track, pool, whatever you'd like to call it. I'd like to acknowledge Bradley McInery for bringing home two state championships as well as Pius Edzie for securing the Poetry Out Loud's state championship this year. We have seen great talents in the arts, the senior art seminar never failed to give life to wonderful pieces each year. I'd also like to sprinkle in here the fact that it was under *our* class that two wonderful club were founded in the spirit of inclusion. Devon's Stallion for Social Justice club always brought awareness to issues that went beyond our school's community and Vanna's APSA club which served to celebrate more asian culture in the Desales community. All these great accomplishments were not accomplished in a day, or even in a single

year, it was through years of dedication, and a strong passion that already existed well before anything was started.

We truly appreciate the opportunity that Desales has given us to be who we are and providing us with a podium to speak for ourselves. That fun little senior meeting we had showed how deeply we care for representation of each individual in our community. Together we raised our voices as leader of this school. We worked through the problems and found a way to resolve it, we never sweep anything under the rug.

This path that we trudge on was not an easy one, but we came full circle. We started at the bottom of the food chain now we're at the top. We'll be dragged down soon enough next year, but we live in the present not the future. You can only be at the top for a hort while and I hope you were able to yield that power well.

Displayed above the entrance of the senior hallway are the words "have patience with all things, but first of all with yourself" and I believe that once we're able to find ourselves, maybe some of you are still searching, but as soon as we made that discovery we learned of patience. Know yourself to have patience with yourself, this is the lesson I take away from these four years. As we say farewell to familiar routines, as we head out away from family and close friends, we should remember that the world wasn't built in a day. God took his time making this, we were molded with care, so we should really appreciate ourselves. God also rested on that last day, and so should we. Take life on with hard work, keep patience in your back pocket and always remember to take it easy.