



TROY HIGH SCHOOL WARRIOR WEEKLY



May 26, 2017

We made it! Congratulations to the Troy High School Class of 2017, our 50th graduating class! It was an extraordinarily busy year, which after three years here I beginning to understand is the norm for Troy. I don't think we can do anything other than to always strive to be the best, and I know none of us would have it any other way. Congratulations on another wonderful year for our students and thank you to all the Troy staff members, FJUHSD staff members, parents, community members—EVERYBODY that makes this school run the way it does. Troy's success is truly a team effort! Thank you.



Speaking of a team effort, on Saturday, the Troy High School Science Olympiad team won the National Science Olympiad Championship for the 11th time! Troy's team has been a juggernaut in this competition, winning the national title three of the last four years. Congratulations to this wonderful team and their coaches! Next year, let's do it again! 😊

Last Friday night was also the End of Year concert for the six Troy concert groups. At the end of the evening, Band director, Mr. Jo-jo Castillo was spent. The students look good however... Our musicians had a break out year, and I know I am looking forward to 2017-18!



At Orientation this summer, Troy High School will be distributing Chrome Books to all our students as part of the FJUHSD 1:1 rollout. It is an exciting time to be a student and our staff has been training for the past 1 ½ years in preparation for this day! However, while we have been training for the Chrome Book rollout, and kids today are technological wizards that know more about technology than most of us can learn in a year, we also want to share details with our parents. We will be holding Parent Meetings on 1:1 on July 7th and July 28th. Thank you to our parent groups the PTSA and our Troy Support Organization for their support and council as we have discussed and prepared for the rollout in preparation for the 2017-18 school year. There will be two meetings each day in the Lecture Hall and they will begin at 9:00am and 6:00pm. So, if you have questions or want to know more about how students are expected to care and maintain their Chrome Books, please attend the meetings!

The American Chemical Society, Orange County Section held their High School Awards Program at CSUF on May 23rd and at these awards several Troy students were recognized in

various categories. National Chemistry Olympiad Exam Participants: Alexander Tsao and Timothy Li, Top First Year Chemistry Student for each Participating School: Tanya Jomaa, Top Chemistry Olympiad Student for each Participating School: Alexander Tsao, The First Year Chemistry Team Competition: First Place Troy High School(Sophia Byerly, Tanya Jomaa, Colby Chang, Ansh Shah, and Michael Zhu), The Chemistry Olympiad Team Competition: First Place Troy High School(Alexander Tsao, Lydia Chan, Matthew Tran, and Leo Yeung). Last but not least the Margaret Carlberg Award is given to the top Chemistry Olympiad student based on the scores for the first Olympiad exam each year. Alexander Tsao from Troy High School and Phil Chen from University High School shared this award! Congratulations to all the students in this fantastic Chemistry competition! Thank you to their teachers, also recognized for contributing to their success, Mr. Kurt Wahl and Mr. Justin Kim! Great job and Go Warriors!

Also last week our Troy Vocal Music held their last concert of the year, (not counting the Alma Mater at Graduation) when they featured music from Grease, Les Miserables, and Mamma Mia! Our choirs have continued to grow and become more technical in their vocal performances under the direction of Mr. Mark Henson! On May 6th at the Southern California Vocal Association Show Choir Competition, Troy High School took 1st Place! If you only saw them once or twice this year, you are going to want to make time for these choirs in 2017-18. I cannot wait to hear the new music when school resumes in 2017-18!



Thank you to our AVID 1 students and their advisor, Ms. Tiffany Robinson for orchestrating the “Pink Out” last Friday for Ms. Dorey Madrid! It was a great event and it was wonderful to see Troy High School bathed in something other than Red and Black for such a

good cause! Events like this are the family spirit of Troy High School on full display! Go Warriors and, Ms. Madrid you will beat this disease! GO, WARRIORS!!!

This week Troy Geometry teacher, Mr. Danny Lee held his 2nd Annual Geometry Bake Off. His students apply concepts of surface area and volume to a theme cake of their choice. Due to the surface area occupied by the cakes, it was necessary for them to be “stored” in the faculty lounge. For the most part the cakes remained intact, but there may have been a few that were just too tasty to be resisted... This was a great project and showed application of the math concepts and the creativity and of our students! Great job on a wonderful project!



Another thank you to all of our staff for making the AP testing process go as smoothly as possible. When a school administers 3,096 AP exams it is an ordeal of the highest magnitude! Test locations, test security, procedures and protocols must be followed for the exam process to be a success! Thank you to everyone involved, with AP Testing Coordinators Lisa Avila and Cindy Osborne shouldering a huge amount of the load. Additionally this administration could not be a success without the involvement of all the classified staff in our school. They are extremely valuable in getting this done right. Also thank you to AP’s Ms. Gayle Morgenstern, and Ms. Laura Rubio for their help in counting exams and in troubleshooting when needed. Great job, and next year we get to do it again! ☺



Thank you to our PTSA for all the work they do for us throughout the entire year! This morning they provided the Year End Staff Breakfast, and it was outstanding with gigantic breakfast burritos! PTSA president, Kim Cusick also presented their Educator of the Year Award. This year the very deserving recipient is Special Education Teacher, Mr. Royce Watanabe! Royce does an absolutely fantastic job with the kids in his classrooms. His kids know he cares for them and knows what is going on in their lives. It is not an easy job being a Special Education teacher and many of us would not be able to do the job at the level performed by Royce Watanabe. Mr. Royce Watanabe is Troy's PTSA Educator of the Year and it is richly deserved! Congratulations!



A couple months ago students that met at Troy High School filmed their engagement at Troy High School. Last Saturday, Troy graduates and members of the 2008 Science Olympiad National Championship team took their wedding photos, on their wedding day at Troy High School. I knew about this for a very long time as Jane and Jonathan had been planning this day for the past year. Three photographers and a videographer were on hand to catch all the pictures on the day, and after two hours they were done and off to the wedding ceremony held at the Hacienda in Santa Ana. Congratulations to the now newly married couple and our wishes for a wonderful future together!

Yesterday we had the perfect weather for the 50th Commencement Ceremony for Troy High School. The ceremony went off without a hitch and it was a pleasure and honor to able to preside over our 50th graduating class. For those that could not attend the ceremony, I have am going to include the three student speeches and my commencement address at the end of this

Warrior Weekly newsletter. Our students are special and their insights on their Troy High School experience were priceless. Go Warriors and Congratulations to the class of 2017!

To the entire Troy family, have a wonderful and safe summer! If you are returning next year, we look forward to having you back! If you have graduated and are moving forward to college and careers, make sure you stay in touch and let us know of your accomplishments! I will see everyone back here at the end of summer. Don't forget, the first student day of school is on August 14, 2017!

W.V. Mynster

Student Commencement Addresses:

Tiffany Georgeanna Hall

“Expectations”

Hello fellow students, parents, staff, and faculty. I realize that no words can really capture this moment for any of us. The swishing of robes, the sound of silence as we really come to endure the fact that we all left our phones in our car, and the snap of a few solitary cameras in the stands. But, let's be honest, the one thing that is hardest to endure is how ready we are for food and how little there is out here. I see you with the mint in the fourth row. Remember, sharing is caring.

In the spirit of honesty, I figured I would share a secret with all of you—one that I would have to be insane to say in front of countless soon-to-be Troy alumni, Troy teachers, and Troy staff. I never wanted to come to Troy. Back when I was a know-it-all, smart-aleck pre-teen, I obviously knew that Troy was not for me based on my endless experience with life. Red and black? No. I was gold and black through and through and I was sure I would attend the high school that must not be named.

I think that it was the moment I walked through the breeze-way that my heart beat off kilter. All of a sudden, Bright Mound didn't seem like such an appealing high school choice. Everyone I spoke to at Troy was just so happy. And I don't mean the fake “We are SO glad you are here”

type of show. They all seemed to pulse with vitality, with a sort of unspoken, but not hidden, type of joy that impressed itself on my angsty, pre-teen, Twilight obsessed heart.

Suffice to say it surprised me in a way that I can't express fully and I kept being surprised over the years. I came to understand that it wasn't the establishment that made the school as amazing as it was—it was the people there. Whether it be an entire day dedicated to inclusion of those with intellectual disabilities or a pink fire truck and thousands of shirts with pink loops supporting one teacher whom we all know by name, Troy never disappointed. Even when I would get frustrated, even when the struggle was real, even when I had to take the L, and even when the library was locked and I had to print something for next period—you all know what I'm talking about—I never regretted my decision to attend Troy.

So now we are here, hungry, suffering from nomophobia, and, maybe, a little afraid. Afraid we chose the wrong school and that we aren't ready for the hard decisions we are going to have to make as new adults. I would challenge you to allow yourself to be afraid and be surprised when it works out and when you figure it out yourself. Trust that Troy has done its job. Rest easy in the knowledge that you are surprising. You all surprised me with your humor, procrastination, kindness, warmth, love, and acceptance. Thank you for that. Troy shocked me into becoming a Warrior and now it is our turn to shock the world with our brains, our courage, and our hearts.

Congratulations class of 2017. You have surpassed my wildest expectations and I couldn't ask for a better school to share with you all. Go Warriors!

Thanasi Bakis

“Limitless”

Good afternoon, seniors, parents, family, friends and distinguished guests,

Don't tell me the sky's the limit, when there are footprints on the moon.

Paul Brandt's motivational message was the graduation theme with which a younger, less mature, and much shorter eighth grade version of me left junior high and kicked off the

adventure we know as Troy High School. We were to push limits. Exceed expectations. Break boundaries. And while the last four years may have seemed like a quick, crazy, difficult blur, I'd like to take the time to remind you of what we, the graduating class of '17, accomplished- the limits we broke.

We pushed the limits of bravery. No, we didn't go skydiving. Nor bungee jumping, nor drag racing, nor [insert worst nightmare here]. No, my fellow graduates, we had scarier. We had the bug project. Perhaps you forgot since freshman year, but we actually stuck needles through cockroaches. And if that wasn't as scary to you as it was to me, then Troy must have truly driven you insane.

We pushed the limits of strength. We learned exactly how much caffeine we could ingest at 1:00 in the morning in order to keep ourselves conscious enough to write. We discovered that it is quite possible to spend 100 degree summers out marching around on a field, playing football, or even running laps for PE under the beating sun. But hey, those of you planning on going to college on the rainy east coast may want to consider taking a picture of that sun. You may not see it again for a while.

We pushed the limits of love. This was something I could not forget to mention today. Never have I seen a more supportive group of people in the world unite with pink shirts, pink ribbons, even a pink fire truck for our beloved Mrs. Madrid. I know we can all agree that she is truly the prime role model in the face of hardship. Mrs. Madrid, on behalf of the graduating class of 2017, I'd like to tell you now nothing but the extraordinary truth- you are amazing.

And lastly, my friends, we pushed the limits of knowledge. Take a step back for a moment, everyone. I have personally watched way too many of us panic about receiving an A- on some test or a 4 on one of your AP exams. Guys, pat yourselves on the back right now. You all are graduating from such an incredibly rigorous school, unlike any other out there. I usually try to avoid clichés, but hey, you survived!

Your experiences here, through bravery, strength, love, and knowledge, have given each and every one of you something that simply cannot be represented by the gowns you're wearing or the diplomas you're about to receive. You are prepared for the future. Wherever life takes you next, whichever college or career awaits you, you're ready to handle everything destiny throws at you.

So, my fellow graduating class of 2017, I hope you'll let me spend my last words right now bragging for you. Because I want you to remember this- you are limitless.

Thank you, and congratulations!

Anuroop Nirula

“The Future”

Good afternoon honored guests, administration, and the Class of 2017.

We stand here today on the precipice of the future. It's not a distant reality anymore. It begins here. It begins with us, today.

Just four short years ago, we walked in for the first time through those front gates...and now it's already time to leave. Where did all of our time go? It seemed only yesterday that we were the little freshman getting wrecked by our first all-nighter or running frantically to our next class, looking generally clueless to all the upperclassmen. Now we are the upperclassmen, the seniors who stand here ready to graduate and move forward in the world. Yet at this seminal moment, we can't help looking back.

How do we measure the time we've spent in high school? In the beginning, we measured it in class periods, counting down the day to eventual freedom. As the days and weeks passed, we measured it in semesters, and later in years as we moved from being those clueless freshmen, to becoming sophisticated sophomores who thought they had it all figured out. By the time we reached our junior year, we were confident that we were prepared to take over for the graduating seniors, and we couldn't wait to finally “rule the school.”

And now here we stand. Our rule is over, and it's up to the next class to step into our shoes and take over. I know I will measure my time here in a much different way, as we all will. You see, little did I know that the random girl across from me in Spanish would become my rock for the next four years or the crazy and obnoxious violinist who played tenor sax would become one of my closest friends.

So how will I measure my time? I'll measure it in all the friendships I've enjoyed these last four years. Some were pretty casual and others were much closer, but I'll remember each one fondly, as I'm sure you all will too. And when many of our high school memories begin to fade, that's how we'll ultimately measure the time we spent here, not in periods or semesters or years, but in the friendships that we made and the times we shared together. Look around you, at your closest friends...they are a symbol of your time here at Troy High School, your grades and your classes have changed throughout the years, but these people have been with us through it all.

Four years ago when we all walked in, we had no idea what we were in for, no clue at all. But that was the beauty of it, and that, my fellow graduates is the beauty of the future that awaits us all. We began high school as children, but we're leaving here as adults. We've completed our basic education that will serve as the platform we use to launch ourselves into our futures. Some of us will go on to college, others will go straight into the workforce, but each of us will travel our own path.

No matter where we go or what we do, there are challenges ahead of us. What I'm asking from each of you, and from myself, is to meet those challenges straight on with your head held high and your heart wide open. While right now, we many not have the power to inspire the entire world to strive for success, we do have the power to try to achieve it for ourselves. My challenge to each of you, and to myself, is to do all that you can do to reach your full potential. The future is truly in our hands, so let's make the most of it.

And now, I know I've already talked a lot, but there's one thing I cannot forget. It has been a long four years, and we worked hard to get to this point, but we didn't do it by ourselves. To our teachers, thank you for so unselfishly sharing your time, talent, and knowledge with us. Yes, we

know it was your job to do it, but what you did for us went beyond the call of duty. You put in the effort to make lessons more interesting so we wouldn't just tune out or fall asleep. You demanded excellence from us whether or not we wanted to give it. You set the bar high and challenged us to live up to it.

To our parents, thank you for supporting us in more ways than it's possible to count. You dragged us out of bed each morning, made sure we were fed and clothed for school. You herded us out the door and drove us to school. These are just a few of the thousands of ways you've supported us on our journey. But without you, we wouldn't be standing here, ready to take on the next chapter in our lives.

To our friends, thank you for going on this wild ride with us. But let's not have it end here. Let's continue to grow, and become even closer.

I'm standing here, talking to you as if our relationships and experience end here, but here's the catch. They don't. I mean Mr. Cog is always going to be here ready to answer questions with other questions, and the Main Office is still going to so patiently endure the rampage of calls coming in to excuse the endless absences that come in. You see, Troy High School isn't going anywhere Class of '17, but we are. We're all different. Look around you. You're probably sitting next to the next doctors, lawyers, billionaires, and maybe the president.

Yet as time has shown me, it doesn't really matter what we do or where we are each going...because we are always connected by the bonds and experiences that makes us Troy Warriors. People often ask us...how did Troy impact our future? Simple—it gave us one.

As we leave here today, bittersweet as it may be, know that we leave a legacy. Class of '17...the 50th graduating class of Troy High School, you are the legacy. Wherever we go and whatever we do, let's make it count. Congratulations to my fellow graduates of the Class of 2017, we made it!

Principal's Commencement Address

William Mynster, Ph.D.

Good afternoon, before I begin my address to the senior class I would like to call your attention to this year's program. This is the first time in a very long time the cover has been designed by a Troy student. It is a beautiful program and I would like to thank Troy senior Meiling Choy for her artistry on our program today.

As I prepared my address to the senior class for graduation today, I picked up an edition of Troy High School's 1967 yearbook, Ilium Volume III, seeking to learn a little bit more about the first graduating class from Troy High School. Fifty years ago on June 16, 1967, this first graduating class left Troy High School having completed their freshman year at Fullerton High School and their next three years at Troy. As sophomores many of them did not come here willingly, and they did not want to leave Fullerton High School. But come they did, and they began to build a legacy for others that would follow. As I read through the pages of this old yearbook, I began to see the foundations of the Troy culture and family taking shape as early as this first graduating class.

Already the faculty and students were embracing STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math) content. A yearbook quote from 1967 read: "The world today is becoming more oriented toward science and its partner, math. Mankind is aiming for the moon, curing cancer, and splitting atoms. The students at Troy will be well prepared to take their places in this age of science miracles...Our teachers are starting the training of the astronauts, doctors, and engineers of tomorrow."

The roots of our Best Buddy program can be found in 1967 as evidenced by another quote that read, "At the same time Troy became the first high school in Orange County to include handicapped students right along with its regular students in class." Caring for others and inclusion of people who are different and welcoming them into a family is something that began

to be part of Troy's identity. Programs such as Choir, Theatre, Fine Arts, Visual / Media Arts, Band and Orchestra, were also establishing roots and reputations for excellence as evidenced when Troy students began to get invited to perform throughout Orange County and beyond.

As I continued to read through the yearbook it was interesting to see pictures of the school and read about the time when Troy was brand new. So many parts of the school are still recognizable such as our North Gym, Lecture Hall, Library, Track & Field and the Quad. Some parts of the school are gone, such as our old pool, Ag area, open field spaces, and Auto Shop. Some parts of the school didn't yet exist, such as the South Gym, the 900 building, our new pool (coming in August), Warrior statue, and marquee by the front student parking lot. Interesting fact, the original school marquee is still standing at Troy, you may even know where it is...

On that 16th of June in 1967, the world that Troy's graduates entered a was one filled with uncertainty, turmoil, economic, and political strife, the struggle for Civil Rights, and a war in a country far away taking our graduates right after high school. The world in 1967 was different, but it was also a time of hope. Hope for a better world, for change that could be brought by an enlightened society. Still there remain unfortunate similarities with our own time right now, right here, today fifty years later. Some of the similarities from then and now could make you think, "Can I make a difference?" What is my place in the world? What can I do to be an instrument of change to make a better world for myself, family, community, country, planet? Time waits for no one and obviously there is no easy answer, but we have to try. We can have hope and we can be the change and make the difference we want to see.

I have one last quote from the yearbook of 1967, and I think you will quickly understand why I have chosen to read it to you. "Within the walls of Troy things are not yet old and established, nor is our heritage filled with glory from the past. Troy is young, fresh and inexperienced. School traditions are still in the process of being formed. Yet even with our modern and somewhat controversial methods of teaching, many young and inexperienced teachers and coaches, and a new principal...Troy somehow seemed to come out first in many fields. The secret pride of being a member of a tremendous student body was shared daily in the glowing enthusiasm to excel in all activities on campus. This could be labeled the spirit of Troy...the

essence of our daily lives at school. It was a good year, filled with success and sorrow. And as Troy launches its first graduating class into the hazy future...let the name Troy High represent the best.”

Fifty years later, the name Troy High has been established to represent the best. Each year when 99% of our students graduate high school, when 400 students complete Troy Tech Internships, when 90% of our athletic teams go to the playoffs, when our NJROTC competes in national championships in six different categories, every time our Science Olympiad wins another national championship, when 50+ students earn IB diplomas each year, when we have some of the highest average SAT scores in the nation, when 99% of our graduates go to college and universities where once there, our graduates are coveted for not only their preparation but also for continuing on and completing advanced degrees. There is a reason 145 colleges and universities come to Troy’s College Night every September. Each year Troy High School is ranked by various entities such as U.S. News and World Report and Niche, as one of the best public high schools in the nation largely for our academic successes. But there is more to us. What these ranking entities cannot see is the profound difference Troy High School students make in the lives of others. In the three student addresses today from Tiffany, Thanasi, and Anuroop, you heard what Troy has meant for them. Beyond our school, we are active in the local community, annually giving thousands of service hours from students and staff. These school ranking entities do not see the funds raised to help causes in our community nor could they understand the lengths to which our Troy family will go to help one of its own, like our English teacher Ms. Dorey Madrid when learned she had Stage 4 cancer three years ago—We were overjoyed when she beat the cancer and we celebrated like only family could. This spring, when the cancer returned, the Troy family quickly geared up again as individuals, as focused groups, and as a family and immediately put our heart and soul into giving Ms. Madrid the energy and support we can muster, to rally and beat cancer again. That fight continues and Ms. Madrid doesn’t give up, Mr. Madrid, her children, her Troy family will not give up. I am happy to announce that this afternoon, Ms. Madrid is here to see the Class of 2017 walk across this stage... We are all Warriors and part of a great school community that prepares our graduates for college, career, and life.

Seniors, your high school journey ends this afternoon, yet it truly is only the beginning. Today's graduation represents endless possibilities as you enter the world as a young adult, prepared and armed with new knowledge, enthusiasm, empathy, love, friendship, and family. You will use this knowledge to be successful in college and beyond as you further your education. You will use this knowledge as you continue to mature and develop into the educators, doctors, lawyers, computer programmers, mechanics, engineers, and countless other career endeavors. You are the leaders of tomorrow. But don't take too long...we desperately need you today. I know in my head and my heart, each of you will be successful, and you will reach your dreams. Class of 2017, all of you accepted the challenge to be excellent when you came to Troy High School four years ago. As expressed by the first Troy senior class in 1967, "...let the name Troy High represent the best." For the 49 Troy High School classes that have previously graduated, and the classes that will graduate in the future, remember that today and for all our tomorrows, we will always together be Warriors! Congratulations to the Class of 2017, the 50th graduating class of Troy High School!

