



TROY HIGH SCHOOL WARRIOR WEEKLY



June 2, 2023

Warriors, we made it! Congratulations to all our graduates from the Class of 2023! You had a memorable and impactful high school career. We are looking forward to seeing and hearing about the next chapters in your lives, knowing all of you will do great things!

Our graduation ceremony last evening had a wonderful feel and flow throughout the entire night. Thank you to all our Teachers, Counselors, Administrators, Choir, Orchestra, Custodians, Students, and Families for making our graduation ceremony special!



TROY HIGH SCHOOL COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY
Thursday, June 1, 2023 | 7:00pm

In this last *Warrior Weekly* of the 2022-2023 school year I always highlight a few parts of our Graduation Ceremony beginning with our Student Commencement Addresses. Our three graduates, in their addresses were able to capture their high school experience and being a Troy graduate. Nobody knows what it feels like to be a Troy student, more than our graduates!



Graduation photo courtesy of Troy Counselor, Mrs. Dionne Evans

Senior Commencement Address #1

Chapters

Isabelle Liang

Hello family, friends, teachers, admin, and fellow graduates!

As we gather here today to celebrate the completion of our high school journey, let's take a moment to reflect on the past few years. Now let's get into the tea! No, not that kind of drama, sorry to disappoint, but I do have a few things to share because no high school experience is complete without some stories to tell. Our time here can be understood as a three-act play, complete with its own distinct turning points, lowest moments, climaxes, and resolutions. This dramatic structure is an essential blueprint for the grand stage that is life.

Every story has a great beginning, in Act One, we have our freshmen year. We start off at the setting of, "Troy High school". A school that is infamously rigorous. I mean if you really think about it, being thrust into an unknown environment, banding together with a bunch of scrappy kids, and being mentored by real life superheroes...we were the makings of the next big Marvel movie.

Along the way, we encountered new experiences and challenges, propelling us into Act Two". We faced our lowest points with the plot twist the world didn't see coming. When we think back, it was the darkest hour for many of us. Confrontation can come in many forms, our experiences of loss can never measure up to one another, but as much as we would like to forget it, a year and a half of zoom is enough to create an indelible mark on any of us. Now I know this act 2 might seem a little short, but in all honesty it was. Act two came and went and we navigated the trials and tribulations of adolescence, discovered new sides of ourselves, and leveled up in terms of character development.

Throughout our journey we forged deeper connections with our fellow "characters," who would carry us into the climactic moments of our high school journey. They were our supporting cast throughout this grand narrative, people who added true depth, color, and meaning to our own stories. Now I say supporting characters because in all honesty, we could not have made it here ourselves. To the teachers and advisors here, instead of a cool training montage you gave us lots of homework and exams! But truly, you led us through a tough journey, offering wisdom and insight during critical moments, and navigating us through the pain of failure. To our families in the audience, it was you who first taught us we could write our own stories. You are the ultimate muse, a constant source of inspiration we could draw from. Graduates, it's easy to get caught up in the plot of life, thinking your story is the only one. However we must give back, providing kindness, empathy, and compassion to nurture the blossoming stories of others.

Now looking back, it's senior year and we've reached the climax, act 3, of our high school years. We found ourselves on top, but in a blink of an eye, or I should say after countless word hunts, wordles, and BeReals, we are staring at the reality of transitioning into the next great act of our lives. These past few months have seemed like the falling action, leading up to this point with impending finality.

But before I close off this speech let's take a little break shall we. Now let me be clear, as much as I love a clear cut story, life doesn't always follow a roadmap. Let me elaborate more on

*where we left off. Senior year, I decided to go off script, try anything and everything. I went to each and every dance this year. I auditioned for warrior idol spontaneously with my friends. I got smoked playing dodgeball, and got crowned prom queen. So many core memories were born from letting go of the narrative I felt I was supposed to have. Up until this point, many of us have been following a script for success, a road map thesis that promised us a stable future. But I say **FLIP THE SCRIPT**. We all had hopes and dreams for what we thought high school would hold for us, but not all of it came to fruition. Through these unscripted moments, I found freedom in the authenticity of my story, gaining more clarity and conviction towards my passions. I discovered the level of courage it takes and the flexibility required to deviate from the expected path. Failure isn't a pit stop we plan, but it is a necessary one.*

Leaving high school let us remember the writing strategies we've learned and apply them to our own life stories. We must weave our unique narratives with purpose and passion. As we venture forth into the unknown, let us embrace the challenge of telling our stories, of living our lives fully, and of making our mark on the world, one page at a time.

Congratulations to the Class of 2023, and here's to the next act in our unfolding story!

Senior Commencement Address #2

Soak Up the Moment

Ahsha Jones

Thank you Dr. Mynster. It is an honor not only to be speaking in front of all of you today but to hallmark a moment that will be monumental in our lives. Graduates, our long-awaited congratulations are here. But, I suggest all of you get comfortable in your seats because I have three minutes to tell you a little story.

It goes as such: In the minds of many, but achieved by so few is pride. Pride sweeps through every one of us in a combination of ways. It will walk you down a path you never thought you would embark on. The characteristic itself is so encapsulating, it helps you better navigate the world around you.

With our story taking place in high school, I can say pride strings together situations to craft so many great memories. For some, pride made you jump to your feet to scream long, complex

chants with your friends at games. Unable to hold in your excitement as you experience genuine moments of happiness. For others, it forced you to connect with people you've never even knew went to Troy before that very moment. Or, it got you to smile silently to yourself after receiving a "good job" on an assignment. For a few, pride drags you up in front of people to deliver a speech. While you shake and hope that no one hears the quivering in your voice. While you smile wide to mask the awkward pauses and short gasps for breath, in the back of your head, your dignity guided you to this very second.

But, don't get it twisted. Pride can be blinding. Too much can lead you astray. There will be so many paths that you become lost. Diverge too far from where you started and get redirected somewhere you never saw coming. It can restrict you from truly pursuing your future in full.

I tell you this story to give you something you need to hear. Every one of you deserves to have pride in yourself and your journey to getting here. While you sit there in the audience and wonder how you are no longer a wide-eyed freshman, struggling to not get shoved in the hallways, appreciate how all of your moments culminated into this milestone.

All of you are so important and have done so much. I don't care if it was as simple as turning in your assignments or even waking up in the morning. Each of you holds so much character and potential. You don't understand. Some of us need to sit back to bask in the fact that not many people could do what you do. Not in an hour. Not in a year. Not even in a lifetime. It is mind-numbing how amazing all of you are. And I do mean all of you.

I think some of the best advice I received at this school is to just "sit down for a moment and soak up what's happening around you. Because it shows you so many things you wouldn't see if you didn't." So, thank you, Mr. Falletta for that advice. I hope never to take what you said for granted because I know we all forget the humanity in what we do. All of us get so absorbed in our ability to have big successes. But know there's a spectacle, a pride, a confidence behind everything we've been able to achieve, graduates. It doesn't matter what college you've gotten into or what grade you've received. Because at the end of the day, y'all killed it. You're here and you are everything to be proud of.

Now as I begin to leave you all...Graduates, I hope you know I am privileged to have been able to spend the last four years with you. I want you to step into the next phases of your life proud of yourself. For your future will not be much clearer than it is at this moment. So, take your time to soak up what's around you.

Senior Commencement Address #3

Metamorphosis

Saiya Shah

Hello, parents, teachers, students, and friends and of course, class of 2023. One more time let's give it up for the class of 2023.

I'd like to begin with a quote. "We delight in the beauty of the butterfly, but rarely admit the changes it has gone through to achieve that beauty." - Maya Angelou.

Our freshman year we were little caterpillars "crawling" onto Troy's campus with this ideal perfect version of ourselves in our head when we arrived at this moment. Maybe by senior year you imagined yourself as a 6 foot 2 varsity basketball team captain. Maybe you imagined yourself as the lead role in the school play while managing your own baking instagram account. Or maybe you were like me, and imagined yourself as a Science Olympiad All-Star. Whatever it was, I think I can speak for the majority when I say that we quickly learned, our idea of perfection was not necessarily realistic.

Instead that freshman year we had to realign our priorities, realizing that the average person cannot actually do it all. For some of us, that meant our passions were realigned. Rather than being a Scioly superstar, I instead decided to explore Cybersecurity, a field that I not only despised as a middle schooler, but thought was way too "bro-ey" and not exactly an ideal place for a short and self conscious 13 year old. Freshman year Mr. Stubblefield changed my mind about cyber. As it turns out you don't need to be a "bro" to learn how to secure computers. Commander's belief that cyber is for everyone and active encouragement in the classroom to

pursue this field inspired me to take on a new challenge. And while this is only my story, I know that many of you too took on challenges. Whether you tried something new by learning more about business and competing in FBLA competitions or decided to give dance a shot and tried out for Red Hots or All Male.

Regardless, freshman year we experienced redirection and still thought for sure our problems were solved. After a sophomore year filled with zoom meetings, finally junior year came and we were able to restart. We came in with joy and hope that this year would be our year, the year we would make more friends, and get back on track of our new and improved definition of perfect. Whether it was becoming more social by attending dances and football games, starting clubs or creating new academic goals. We finally had freedom too. We entered our chrysalis stage, and with that only came more challenges. Balancing school and a social life was more difficult than we thought. Now as a cyber instructor I was being asked to teach a room filled with rowdy middle schoolers who bore rather easily. Of course there's an English essay due the next day that I haven't even started. I mean who had time to go to the football game when the PSAT was the next day. Perfection was seeming less and less realistic now.

At the end of junior year, I think we all came to the conclusion that while this year did not go as we hoped, senior year we would get back on track and go out with a bang. As the chrysalis was just about ready to hatch.

Then came senior year. For once, we let go of our definition of perfect. We pushed ourselves to put ourselves out there and tried new things. We went on adventures with our friends after school to get boba or ice cream. We saw many of our friends find the courage to participate in Warrior Idol, go to dances for the first time, and even carve out time for their hobbies. I even decided I would teach middle schoolers cyber security again, hoping to inspire other girls like me that cybersecurity is not just for boys. We made this year one to remember and finally emerged out of our chrysalis.

Metamorphosis was not easy. We may dream of all these perfect lives for ourselves, but at the end of the day no one can predict the future. Over these past four years we've learned through

trial and error that perfection and ultimate success are not what counts, but rather your journey. Now that does not mean that you shouldn't continue to strive for success and to reach your goals, but rather that you should not let disappointments in life discourage you from being the best you can. As you spread your wings and fly, no matter how far away you fly, always remember where you came from and your four years at Troy have morphed you into a beautiful butterfly.

CONGRATULATIONS Class of 2023.

Principal's Commencement Address

William Mynster:

Good evening Troy Family and Friends!

Again, welcome, and thank you to everyone joining us tonight, as we celebrate our Troy High School Class of 2023!

The Class of 2023 is extraordinary. This is our graduating class from Year 1 of the COVID-19 Pandemic. They had to take on challenges for which they had not asked nor could have been prepared. None of us were. These students seated tonight on the field, and graduating together—they stayed together. The Class of 2023 embodies the spirit of a U.S. Marine saying, “improvise, adapt, and overcome.”

We know what happened as the 2019-20 school year ended—we ended the year at home then we held a virtual graduation for the Class of 2020. In 2020-21 their sophomore year we continued with Distance Learning and then Hybrid Learning. In 2021-22, their junior year, we were all able to return fully to in person learning with masks and school began to feel normal. This year, 2022-23 their senior year we were in school with no-COVID restrictions, we had to keep telling ourselves we are back to normal. Each year of their high school experience including this one, they have continued to improvise, adapt, and overcome.

Each summer, schools receive their California State test scores from the spring. Last year as juniors, this class put up some outstanding numbers on the State tests, significantly outpacing State and county passage rates in mathematics, English Language Arts, and Science. On our AP exams this class was a key part of the highest schoolwide scores on AP, IB, and Cambridge exams since 2018. The Class of 2023 did not get weaker as a result of the pandemic, they built resiliency, and capacity, they became stronger.

To our Class of 2023, take a moment to reflect on the past four years. Keep thinking, perhaps your reflection should go back much further. How have you become who you are today? How have you accomplished goals and set new ones? Who are your teachers, mentors? Who inspires you? Earlier tonight, three members of this class gave commencement addresses that touched on some key aspects of achievement, choices, and development. Isabelle spoke of character development, taking risks, growth through failure, with supportive family and teachers there for her as she followed her convictions with purpose and passion into the future. Asha, spoke about the Troy High School experience and the potential, humanity, character, achievement, confidence, and pride in their accomplishments possessed by this class. Saiya spoke of metamorphosis and how she, her friends, and others changed each year, and sometimes in unanticipated ways. Improvising, adapting, overcoming, all while learning and moving forward while redefining the meaning of “perfection.” The discovery that it is Ok to try new things, without fear of disappointments discouraging you from being the best you can. You can make time for hobbies, friends, inspiring others, and finding balance...finding balance along this journey are important keys to moving forward in life.

Here is something all of us know, or at least something we should know. Nobody graduating tonight, or ever, got there by themselves, not on this field, and not in this stadium. Nobody is “self-made.” Everyone has become who they are because of their teachers, beginning with their first teachers, parents and family. Troy parents and families have entrusted us with their most precious gifts, not relinquishing their teaching roles, but allowing us to add to their children’s growth and development. Now as graduates, they have reached this point in their lives, with the experiences and knowledge that have shaped them to be who they are today, and will continue to influence them in the future. They are prepared and are ready for their next challenges in their

lives, which is always true of Troy graduates, and has never been more true or important than today.

I would also like to mention that two very influential Troy teachers are retiring this year. Mr. Don Allen taught Computer Science at Troy for 30 years, and has been indispensable to our Computer Science and Troy Tech Magnet Program. Mr. Allen Stubblefield, led our NJROTC for ten years then officially started our Cyber program six years ago. We will miss both of them, and their work has positively impacted the lives of thousands of our students over the years.

The Class of 2023 have dealt with disruption and uncertainty, circumstances that no high school students have had to deal with for over a century since the last major pandemic. Throughout the nation, few high schools or school districts have been nearly as successful as the students in FJUHSD and Troy High School. It was critical that we never stopped high quality live instruction during Distance or Hybrid Learning, and our students never stopped learning. Without the instructional lull, over the past four years this class bonded together, raised their achievement levels and beat the pandemic. Without coincidence, tonight the entire Class of 2023 is graduating from Troy High School. Yes, you heard that right, every 12th grade student at Troy High School and member of the Class of 2023 is walking across the stage tonight. There are zero Summer graduates or non-graduates this year. Not one. None of our Counselors remember this happening before, so it has been at least twenty years. This class is very strong.

The Class of 2023 will graduate with over 80% meeting U.C. "a-g" and 99% of these students in the Fall are attending college and universities with a few also enlisting in our armed services. This is not an exhaustive list, but a few of the colleges and universities our students are attending, with many going to a couple of our truly excellent local schools, Cal State Fullerton and Fullerton College. We will also have numerous students attending many of the University of California schools including UCLA, Berkeley, San Diego, Irvine, Santa Barbara, San Francisco, and Riverside. Students are also attending California State Universities; Fullerton, Pomona, San Diego, San Luis Obispo. Additionally, students are going to Stanford, Cal Tech, MIT, Harvard, University of North Carolina, Rochester Institute of Technology, USC, Northeastern, Arizona State, Purdue, Boston University, Columbia, Baylor, Embry-Riddle, Brown, Cornell,

Princeton, Claremont McKenna, University of Michigan, University of Rhode Island, Wentworth Institute of Technology, Hawaii Pacific, Georgia Military College, Chapman, Syracuse, NYU, Carlton, Pepperdine, Howard University, Wheaton, Vanderbilt, Drexel, George Washington University...I could keep going...We also have students who have accepted appointments to West Point, Air Force Academy, U.S. Coast Guard Academy, and U.S. Naval Academy. We are so very proud of all our graduates.

Tonight, as we celebrate the Troy High School Class of 2023, we know they are ready to begin their journeys into the future. They will continue to lead by example. They will change the world. Their values of kindness, appreciation, love, humility, tolerance, and confidence, buoyed by their shared experiences the past four years have made this class of seniors stronger than many before them. They are ready to continue taking on new challenges and become leaders in a changing world filled with endless possibilities. I am so proud of our seniors. They are already creating a world that is a better place for everyone, and I know the Class of 2023 will continue making a positive difference.

Seniors, you are all family, you are Warriors, and this will remain true forevermore. Congratulations, to our Troy High School Class of 2023! Now, more than ever, it is a great day to be a Warrior!

Salutatorians and Valedictorians

Troy High School Salutatorians of the Class of 2023.

Anvita Bhave, Susanna Cao, Yonghoon Han, Kile Hsu, Brian Ryu, Ethan Wei, Nichole Wheeler, Joseph Yoon, Emily Zhang.

Troy High School Valedictorians of the Class of 2023.

Soojong Ha, Audrey Her, Ryan Kern, Vivian Lee, Natasha Liu, Yating Liu, Brian Ni, Joshua Oh, Akash Patel, Ivan Pham, Bowen Qiu, Jay Shim, Sean Son, Cheryl Wang, Jonathan Yoo, Mo Zhou.



Springtime Chalk Art by Mrs. Shannon Cogswell

FJUHSD and Troy High School remain committed to providing Mental Health support to our FJUHSD community. There are many options at your disposal, so please take advantage of them as needed. Some of the numerous Mental Health resources available to our FJUHSD Family, include Parents and Guardians. Please use the resources that are available to you and these resources can be also be found on our district website [HERE](#).

Additionally, FJUHSD has partnered with [Care Solace](#), a wonderful agency available to help our FJUHSD families access community mental health resources. It is free, confidential, and they are experts at connecting mental health providers to anyone needing support. Please feel free to review by clicking here, [Care Solace](#). FJUHSD also has these additional mental health resources and links to Orange County and National mental health support.

- [FJUHSD Virtual Calming Room: https://sites.google.com/fjuhsd.org/fjuhsd-virtual-calming-room/home](https://sites.google.com/fjuhsd.org/fjuhsd-virtual-calming-room/home)
- [FJUHSD Parenting Resources: https://www.fjuhsd.org/Page/4317](https://www.fjuhsd.org/Page/4317)
- [OC Support and Crisis Resources: https://www.namioc.org/help-support-overview](https://www.namioc.org/help-support-overview)
- [National Alliance on Mental Illness \(for OC\): https://www.namioc.org/](https://www.namioc.org/)



CONTACT US

Karl Zener, Public Information Officer
Carrie Montoya, PIO Assistant

(714) 870-2803
kzener@fjuhsd.org
cmontoya@fjuhsd.org

HANDLES

Instagram: fullerton_joint_union_hsd
Twitter: @fjuhsd
Facebook: Fullerton Joint Union High School District
YouTube: Fullerton Joint Union High School District
TikTok: @fjuhsd



Social Media



FJUHS Website



Stay Connected: www.fjuhsd.org

Warriors, here is the link to the June Superintendent's FJUHS newsletter. For the global FJUHS insight, news, and events, it does not get much better! <https://conta.cc/43litM2>
#fjuhsfamily #togetherwearefjuhs

Here is a link to the excellent Troy High School video: <https://youtu.be/a3HtnItxdt8>





Warrior Family, it is Summertime! At least the calendar says it is summertime. Eventually, we get out of the June gloom and move into the familiar summer heat. If you cannot wait a couple more weeks, you could drive due East on the 10 Highway, and you will eventually arrive in Palm Springs, where the temperature today will be a nice 93 degrees of dry summer heat. ☺

For those of us immediately going on summer vacation, enjoy your time off, have a great time and be safe! For those of us working or attending Summer School and / or internships, you are making excellent use of your time, and it is going to pay off in both the short and long term. No matter what, everyone needs to slow it down a bit this summer and make sure you take the very well earned, deserved, and needed break this summer! For students and staff who are returning, some of you I will see on Monday, and the rest of you I will see in August! Again, to our Class of 2023, you did it! We are all so very proud of you and excited to see what all of you will be doing next in the next chapter!

Have a safe and wonderful Summer, and I will see everyone back here soon!

W.V. Mynster