



Middle College Class of 2020,

When we first met in August of 2019, I was a new principal to you and you were a new group of students for me. You didn't know me, and I didn't know you. However, I spoke to you during that first day assembly about what it took to be successful as a Middle College student using three words: **attendance, academics** and **attitude**. I am sure you were all a bit skeptical of me at that point, but as the year wore on, I continued to reiterate those words to you. As the year progressed, I saw you rise to the challenge of those three words, and my hope is that you saw me modeling those characteristics, as well. Little did we all know on that very first day that our time together would end so abruptly during a worldwide, unprecedented pandemic.

However, it is my hope that my words of advice for you from that very first assembly are guidance that you can take with you as you go out into the world. **Attendance** does not only mean to show up to school every day, but to be present in the moments of your life. Put your cell phone down and be present in the moment. Spend time with your family and friends. "We have only this moment sparkling like a star in our hand and melting like a snowflake." (Francis Bacon) Show up, do something you are proud of and make a difference in the world.

Academics aren't only about going to class and doing the work assigned by your teachers. Whether you are going to college, military or the work force, learn something every day. Don't let your brain become stagnant. Challenge yourself to learn something new. The world is a wonderful place. Use your amazing brains to do good in the world.

I hope that all of you noticed that I always tried to model a positive **attitude** for you. You and everyone you meet has worries and problems. We all have our story, but those who find the most happiness focus on blessings more than worries. Be the positive for others! Don't let life get the best of you. Meet life's challenges with hope and happiness and model your positivity for others.

The Middle College faculty, staff, and I are so very proud of you and all that you have accomplished thus far in your life, but graduation isn't just about closing a chapter in your life. It is also about writing the next one. As you begin the next chapter, think about the guidance above. Go out into the world, make a difference and be a nice human!

Congratulations, Middle College at Austin Peay State University Class of 2020!

Respectfully,

Dr. Theresa Muckleroy

Principal

INTEGRITY, ACCOUNTABILITY, GROWTH, COMMITMENT = MC@APSU EXCELLENCE