Dear Graduates from the Kenwood High School Class of 2020,

The end of your senior year is something none of us ever expected. Though a pandemic kept us from celebrating in a traditional way, I want to remind you of the importance of the diploma you received. For four years, you worked diligently taking required and elective courses to rightfully earn that piece of paper. That high school diploma is more than something you will frame and display on your wall. It is a key that opens the next steps for all your future opportunities. For some that next step is going to a college, technical school, or university. Others will go into a branch of the United State military. Many of you will decide to take opportunities in the workforce. Whichever direction you are going, your diploma opened that door, and I am confident you will do well at it.

The most important advice I can give you is to never stop pushing yourself to do great things. Use the gifts and talents you have been given to find the place in the world that best suits you and go make a difference. Follow Harriet Tubman's guidance when she said- "Every dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world." As you do your part to change the world, never stop learning. Always keep yourself abreast of our ever-changing world. Nelson Mandela told us "an educated, enlightened and informed population is one of the surest ways of promoting the health of a democracy." I know our world seems overwhelming now but remember that you possess the skills to change the trajectory.

Finally, use the operating principles from Kenwood High to guide your future. Remember to yield *responsibility* by taking ownership of your learning and behavior and being prepared to work to achieve high standards. Possess *integrity* to do the right thing, even when no one is looking. Show *excellence* by holding yourselves to high standards and performing at your maximum potential. Display *accountability* by setting high expectations and working to meet them.

I wish you all the best of luck in your future endeavors. If there is ever anything you need, please do not hesitate to reach out. Once a Knight, always a Knight!

Sincerely,

Mr. Keith Parker, Principal

KENWOOD HIGH SCHOOL
Clarksville-Montgomery County School System

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