

Remarks from the Senior Class  
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To those of you who are currently in Cheshire, good evening! I’m speaking to you here from Beijing, China. Five months ago, I was sitting in my dorm room, listing out everything I wanted to do before senior year, and I had no idea that the same person who was passionately putting together a bucket list ended up crossing out every single thing on that list: college visits, a trip to Hong Kong with my best friend, summer school, and a science competition I’ve been preparing for since the very beginning of my junior year.

Instead, I had to take a 13-hour flight back to home to be quarantined in a tiny hotel room for 14 days, and another 14 days in my own room. I adapted to a new sleep schedule for remote schooling, I had to go to bed at midnight and wake up in the afternoon so I could meet deadlines. For about an entire month, I could not see any of my teachers’ or classmates’ videos during Zoom meetings for connectivity issues. Frustration, boredom, resignation. This is the cycle of emotions that I had been going through since the very first day of remote schooling, and I believe I’m not the only one who felt this way.

However, we do need to realize that, this is temporary for most of us. Across the world, COVID-19 has forced more than one billion students out of school. Those of us who can look back on this time and remember inconveniences and even boredom can count themselves lucky. While schools reopen, many students, especially in developing countries, will never return to the classroom.

So, what I want to say is that, acknowledge your feelings, but don’t let them stop you from doing what you want to do. You are blessed with a world-class education, and this is the time for you to challenge yourselves and seize the initiative! To all of you, especially remote students, reach out to your peers and teachers; it might mean a Zoom call, an email, or maybe an in-person meeting. Make sure you

welcome this new school year with 100 percent effort in class, sport practices, and everything that you love.

I hope in the years to come, everyone will be able to look back and take pride in how they responded to this challenge, and those who come after us will say Cheshire Academy students responded to this unprecedented pandemic with optimism, self-discipline, and a sense of togetherness. We are all in this together, no matter where you are right now.

Stay healthy, stay connected, and we will meet again.