



## WALNUT HILLS HIGH SCHOOL COMMENCEMENT 2020

Haseeb Anas Ahmad | Georgia Shae Albright | Isaiah Zachary Andersen | Anthony James Annis | Madysen Kiara Renee Autry | Angelina Grace Backers | Tyrese Lee Banks  
than Michael Bernard | Finn Mercury Biales | Clayton Jeffrey Bickel | Noah Thomas Bigger | Calvin Andrew Bigham | Donovan William Blackley | John Layne Blevins | Nyree  
man | Shannon Leneal Brewster Jr. | Meoshea La Shawn Britt | Savannah Ma'Kayla-Jenel Britton | Carlo Edward Bronzie | Miyah Renee Brooks | Aniyah Nicole Brown | Drew  
oe Rose Burwinkel | Lillian Rose Busse | Edgar Ford Byars | Margaret Patterson Byars | Miro Preston Calderas | Ella Kay Calhoun | Maisy Agnes Campbell Nelson | Corrine  
towan Chatterjee | Nicolas Chaves-Galeano | Gabrielle Grace Plana Chiong | Kathryn Joan Cholok | Chloe Ann Christian | Elliot Julian Edward Clarke | Savanna Cline Brito  
ezia Vi Copeland | Ignatius Sylvester Corder | Luke Randall Cordill | Carson Raymond Corley Jr. | Paul Nabil Costandi | Jayare Durrell Cottrell | Khadija Marie Coulibaly |  
lly Darks | Rachel Dede Davies | Maleekah Cheyanne Davis | Avian Raine Dawson | Kelly Ann Deal | Clara Jane Dearden | Nickolas Stith Deck | Grace Arwen DeZarn |  
xon | Christina Renee Douglas | Madeline Hope Downie | Mara Sue Doyle | Joshua Ryan Duebber | Alexis Diamond Nicole Duffy | Anjali Nishamani Duke de Lanerolle | Sally  
ya Serphima Ellerhorst | Grace Elizabeth Elliott | Ariana Amor Ellis | Taylor Rose Epperson | Alexander Hudson Ernsell | Bettina Ruth Ernst | Hayden Parker Ernst | Nicholas  
Tanae Felton | Elizabeth Frances Ferre | William Conner Fitton | Kara Elizabeth Flaspohler | Zoie Jeanne Florian | Aidan Padraic Flynn | Gabrielle Alexandra Flynn-Tombragel  
bremeskel | Madeline Beatrice Gelly | Emme Laurel Gerth | Bianca Theresa Gilmore | Milo Stanfield Ginn | Logan Tyler Glaser | Andrew Robert Goering | Georgia Emilie  
ale Graves | Tamir Moshe Alden Gray | Avery Augustus Grayton | LaLea Jasmine Gregory | Klarke Michelle Griffith | Thanh Liem Van Ha | Noah Elijah Hackworth | Dominic  
Douglas Hart | Brooke Raquel Hart | Taylor Catherine Hauser | Leandra Isabella Hawkins | Mitchell Andrew Hedges | William Thaddaeus Heidelberg | Luke Anthony  
is Humberto Hernandez-Naranjo | John Harrison Hicks | Samuel Drake Hilbert | Danielle Rose Hines | Daisha Ann Hogan | Jasmine DeeAnne Hollifield | Olivia Jean Hollis |  
rge Howard | Savanna Celstine Hsu | Hannah Huang | Patience Christine Rosetta Huddleston | Alaja Ali'onah Huff | Elliot John Hull | Jonah Christopher Human | Destyni  
ckson | Theodore Miles Jacobson | Valencia Nicole James | Alan Charles Jay | Alayna Grace Jeffries | Stephanie Lee-Hyun Jenemann | Andrea Denise Jenkinson | Kiara  
nes | Santino Miyale Jordan | Emmett Udi Kaufman | Gabriel Seth Kaufman | Muskaan Kaur | Aiden Caudill Kearney | Isabella Nicole Keegan | Kamryn Riley Keehan | Allison  
Mulatu Kitil | Megan Rose Klein | Tobias Andrew Knueven | Tohonne Cheick Konare | Nigel James Krekeler | Alexander Dmitri Krietemeyer | Heidi Marie Krimmer | Kyra  
han | Iris Elise LeCates | Emerson Grace Lecrone | Tahj Malik Lee | Joseph Gregory Leingang | Inaja Trine Lewis | Victor Tate Li | Julia Rose Lindenschmidt | Lauren Olivia  
Lopez | Emma Daniel Luce | Isaac Benjamin Ludke | Alice Yelena Lundgren | John Anders Lundstedt | James Richard Magee | Shiv Ajay Malhotra | Abdelrahman R Mansour  
Masur | William Charles McCarthy II | Omavi Jeremiah McClinton | Dylan Clint McGill | Derrick Steven McHale | Luke Alexander McSherry | Emily Maria Mehnert | Emmett  
telisciani | Benjamin Mathew Moore | Cristian Darin Morales-Alvarez | Cepada Dion Morgan | Muhammad Mudjtaba Muhammad | Molly Isabelle Munn | Nicholas James  
r Michael Niemeyer | Isabel Francesca Nissley | Mama Njie | Katherine Elizabeth McGarry Noble | Katrazyna Ann Novak-Zawadzki | Theodora Rosebud O'Callaghan | Erin  
ock II | Neil Kanna Ott | Magdalen Catherine Pagano | Navia Sharain Palmer | Sophia Keller Parshall | Siddharth D Patel | Isabella Michelle Paz | Alyse Nicole Pennington |  
lliam Price | Matthew Charles Proietti | Talia Esther Raider-Roth | Madelyn Elizabeth Raisch | Elizabeth Virginia Ramos | Mackenzie Brianna Lynn Rasheed | Nathan  
gney | Seth Lewis Ross | Nathan Locksley Rudnick | Zaria Desiree Ruff | Dhruv Krishna Rungta | Jannai Huang-Jing Rupp | Alma Caroline Russell | Jack Nolan Samuels |  
Lee Schmidt II | Emily Nicole Schnettler | Joseph Theron Schnizer | Eva Ariel Schomaeker | Ryan Edward Schrenk | Ella Augusta Schultian | Everett Cain Schulze | Beau  
squeira | Gregory Hunter Sharp | Jordan Renee Sharp | Nosagie Aikhionbare Sherman | Sarah Michael Shirey | Spencer William Shroyer | Spenser Marshall Shuey | Maxwell  
n | Jaiden Riley Smith | Julian Douglas Smith | Shabrya Clarissa Smith | Stuart Dominic Smith Jr. | Adam Christopher Smyth | Mason Cosette Snyder | Maria Hemmi Song |  
Allyson Kay Standley | Elizabeth Rose Stanton | Sterling Nyx Stark | Samantha Grace Stenger | Amyah Charnae Stephens | Eliana Page Stevens | Charles Horacio Steward |  
yse Taylor | Jabari Earl Taylor | Rhyann Danielle Taylor | Greta Amelia Tebbe | Cassidy Drew Tennyson | Serigne Saliou Thiam | Grayce Christensen Thierauf | Keshawn  
Malia Marie Tucker | Zakary Grigg Upson | Maaz Ahsan Usmani | Frances Evalyn Vainrib | Ashley Faith Veldhaus | Terts Lucas Verhaak | Joaquin Manuel Vigo-Alejandro |  
Isabella Waddle | Kelsey Violet Leonella Wade | Mackenzie Belle Waggoner | Aaliyah Dana Walker | Juelle Rinae Walker | Louis James Walro | Emma Ruby Walters |  
Weidenhamer Alexander | Jacob Franck Wendel | Channah Atiya Whipple | Adam Marcus White | Logan Anthony White | Naomi Elise White | Isabel Alexandra Wiest |  
Is | Jordyn Louise Wooten | Katherine Claire Workum | Esme Elizabeth Wright | RiAnn Lenae Yates-Miller | Nan Naa Dei-Neequaye Yebuah | Yahcov Solomon Yisrael |

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“OH RISE TO THE HIGHEST,” OUR VOICES LOUDLY CRY,  
WE’LL BRING FAME AND GLORY TO WALNUT HILLS HIGH



photo by J.Miles Wolf '75



Dear Class of 2020,

Congratulations on your graduation! Whew, who could have predicted the convoluted twists and turns that altered the path to your remarkable achievement.

2020 literally and figuratively tested you. The Covid-19 global pandemic turned your world topsy-turvy; adjusting to online learning, reconfiguration of high-stakes testing, altered college admission processes, social distancing at a time you wish to be holding friends close, and relinquishing cherished traditions. Your end-of-year expectations were derailed. And yet, it is worth remembering, life will present you obstacles, it is through navigating challenges we develop our strength, determination, and brilliance.

While these seem like unprecedented times, history reminds us, Covid-19 is not the first pandemic to shutter Walnut Hills High School. The Class of 1919 endured the Spanish Flu, missing five weeks of school—history does repeat itself! The WHHS Spanish Flu experience as recounted by Geoff Sutton:

A calendar for the Senior year includes comments about the ways in which the larger world impinged on student life. October (1918) was dominated by a single event. Beginning on the 2nd: "An epidemic of influenza is started." On the 3rd, "The flu is getting worse." On Monday the 7th we read "Whaddya know about this? Schools shut down on account of the flu!" On Friday the 11th we learn "No School all week. Shows are closed too, alas— also soda water and churches." After that, every Friday through November 8th we see the note "No school all week." That fifth week, the Calendar added the remark "This won't last forever." Monday November 11 contained a still more startling notation: "The Germans throw in the sponge and peace there is. Grand blowout downtown. Parade and superfluity of noise and confetti." This, I suppose, is what comes of a classical education abridged by five weeks at home with neither church nor soda water.

Like the Class of 1919, your Walnut Hills education cultivated in you; intellectual curiosity, discovery, and the critical thinking skills necessary to persevere as positive contributors to the community. As Lee Ann Custer '05 writes in her note of encouragement, "You are graduating at a moment when the world is uncertain and in flux—it's yours to change for the better."

We are all in this together. **The following pages represent a step-by-step walk through of your graduation ceremony.** Though this in no way can replace the real thing, hopefully it will represent recognition of your achievement and encouragement from Alumni. They know what it means to be a WHHS graduate and the value that degree holds.

Best of luck to all of you! Make use of the skills you have honed for six years under the dome. *Sursum Ad Summum!*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Helman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

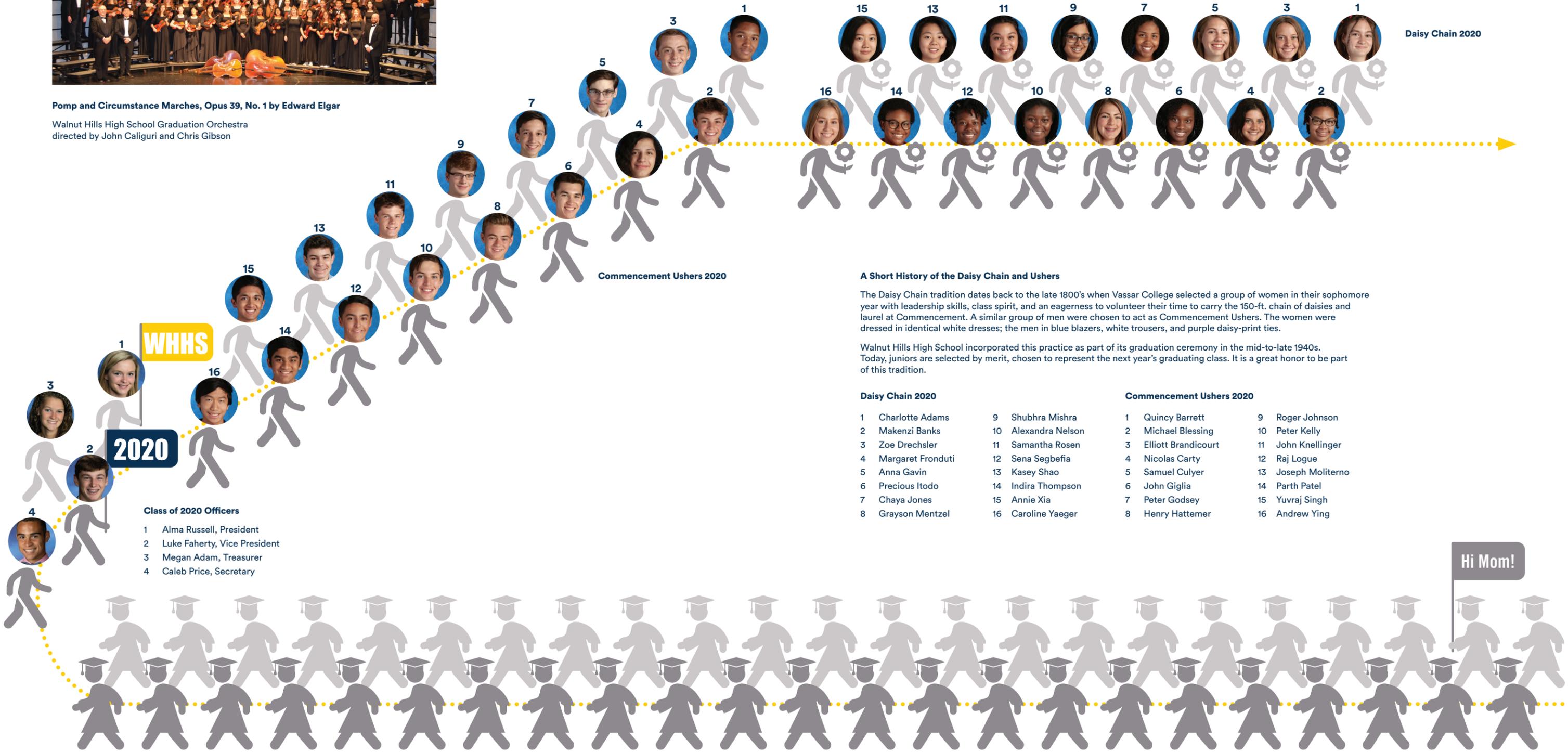
Executive Director  
The Walnut Hills High School Alumni Foundation

# PROCESSIONAL



**Pomp and Circumstance Marches, Opus 39, No. 1 by Edward Elgar**

Walnut Hills High School Graduation Orchestra  
directed by John Caliguri and Chris Gibson



**WHHS**

**2020**

**Class of 2020 Officers**

- 1 Alma Russell, President
- 2 Luke Faherty, Vice President
- 3 Megan Adam, Treasurer
- 4 Caleb Price, Secretary

**Commencement Ushers 2020**

**Daisy Chain 2020**

**A Short History of the Daisy Chain and Ushers**

The Daisy Chain tradition dates back to the late 1800's when Vassar College selected a group of women in their sophomore year with leadership skills, class spirit, and an eagerness to volunteer their time to carry the 150-ft. chain of daisies and laurel at Commencement. A similar group of men were chosen to act as Commencement Ushers. The women were dressed in identical white dresses; the men in blue blazers, white trousers, and purple daisy-print ties.

Walnut Hills High School incorporated this practice as part of its graduation ceremony in the mid-to-late 1940s. Today, juniors are selected by merit, chosen to represent the next year's graduating class. It is a great honor to be part of this tradition.

**Daisy Chain 2020**

- 1 Charlotte Adams
- 2 Makenzi Banks
- 3 Zoe Drechsler
- 4 Margaret Fronduti
- 5 Anna Gavin
- 6 Precious Itodo
- 7 Chaya Jones
- 8 Grayson Mentzel

- 9 Shubhra Mishra
- 10 Alexandra Nelson
- 11 Samantha Rosen
- 12 Sena Segbefia
- 13 Kasey Shao
- 14 Indira Thompson
- 15 Annie Xia
- 16 Caroline Yaeger

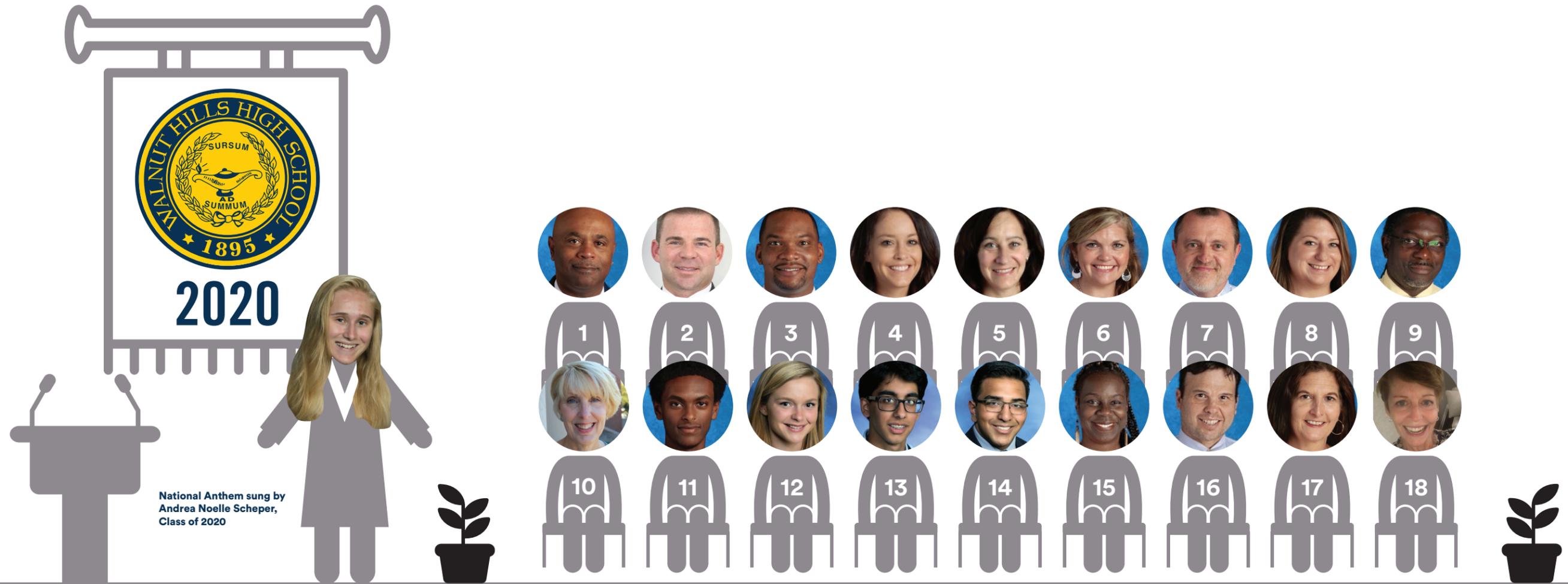
**Commencement Ushers 2020**

- 1 Quincy Barrett
- 2 Michael Blessing
- 3 Elliott Brandicourt
- 4 Nicolas Carty
- 5 Samuel Culyer
- 6 John Giglia
- 7 Peter Godsey
- 8 Henry Hattemer

- 9 Roger Johnson
- 10 Peter Kelly
- 11 John Knellinger
- 12 Raj Logue
- 13 Joseph Moliterno
- 14 Parth Patel
- 15 Yuvraj Singh
- 16 Andrew Ying

**Hi Mom!**

ON THE STAGE



National Anthem sung by  
Andrea Noelle Scheper,  
Class of 2020

**Seated on the Stage**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 John Chambers, Principal                                  | 10 Deborah Heldman, Executive Director WHHS Alumni Foundation |
| 2 Ryan Messer, Vice President Cincinnati Board of Education | 11 Emmanuel Gebremeskel, Student Congress President           |
| 3 Daniel Coleman, Assistant Principal                       | 12 Alma Russell, Class President                              |
| 4 Ashley Thomas Morgan, Assistant Principal                 | 13 Maaz Usmani, Valedictorian                                 |
| 5 Kathy Restle, Assistant Principal                         | 14 Dhruv Rungta, Salutatorian                                 |
| 6 Jessica Smitson, Assistant Principal                      | 15 Tanya Ficklin, Counselor                                   |
| 7 Joseph Stewart, Assistant Principal                       | 16 Adrian Cabrera, Counselor                                  |
| 8 Jayma George, Class Advisor                               | 17 Patricia Morgan, Counselor                                 |
| 9 Alaric Harris, Class Advisor                              | 18 Lucinda Hurst, WHHS Association                            |

## WELCOME

Joseph Stewart, Assistant Principal, Grade 12

Dear Class of 2020,

I have written this speech, erased, and written it again several times. I can say that this is like any other graduation, that everything is great and look forward to the next chapter in your life, but it's not is it? This is not like any other graduation, things are not great and who knows what the next chapter in your life will look like now?

So much has changed in these past few months, family dynamics have been altered, schools have been shut down, businesses have been closed, and loved ones have been lost. What now? Where do we all go from here?

As a high school senior, your graduation should be a lifelong memory. Something you have worked towards your whole academic lives was postponed. I hope one day soon you get to flip your tassels and hug your classmates goodbye.

As a student myself in the 80's and 90's, I too lived through some global events. The Berlin Wall coming down and the fall of Communism was a major event. No-one felt that communism would ever end. The hardships and struggle that those who lived under the umbrella of communism had to endure was open for all to see. It was a structure that was put in place in 1917 and encompassed half of the world's population at its peak, millions died due to its conflicts and proxy wars but in 1989 almost overnight, it was gone, and what better way to commemorate that than David Hasselhoff singing from a cage (look it up).

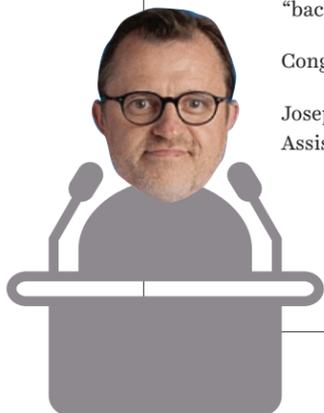
My point is that it passed, and this too shall pass.

Though we mourn for families and loved ones who have been most affected by this pandemic, there is no course at any school that could have prepared you for life any better than this experience. You have been forced to deal with this fastball whether you were ready or not, the courage and strength you have all shown will benefit you more than you ever will know.

At the end of the day, think of the stories you will tell when you are old and gray, "back in 2020, we made history!" Guess what, you did!

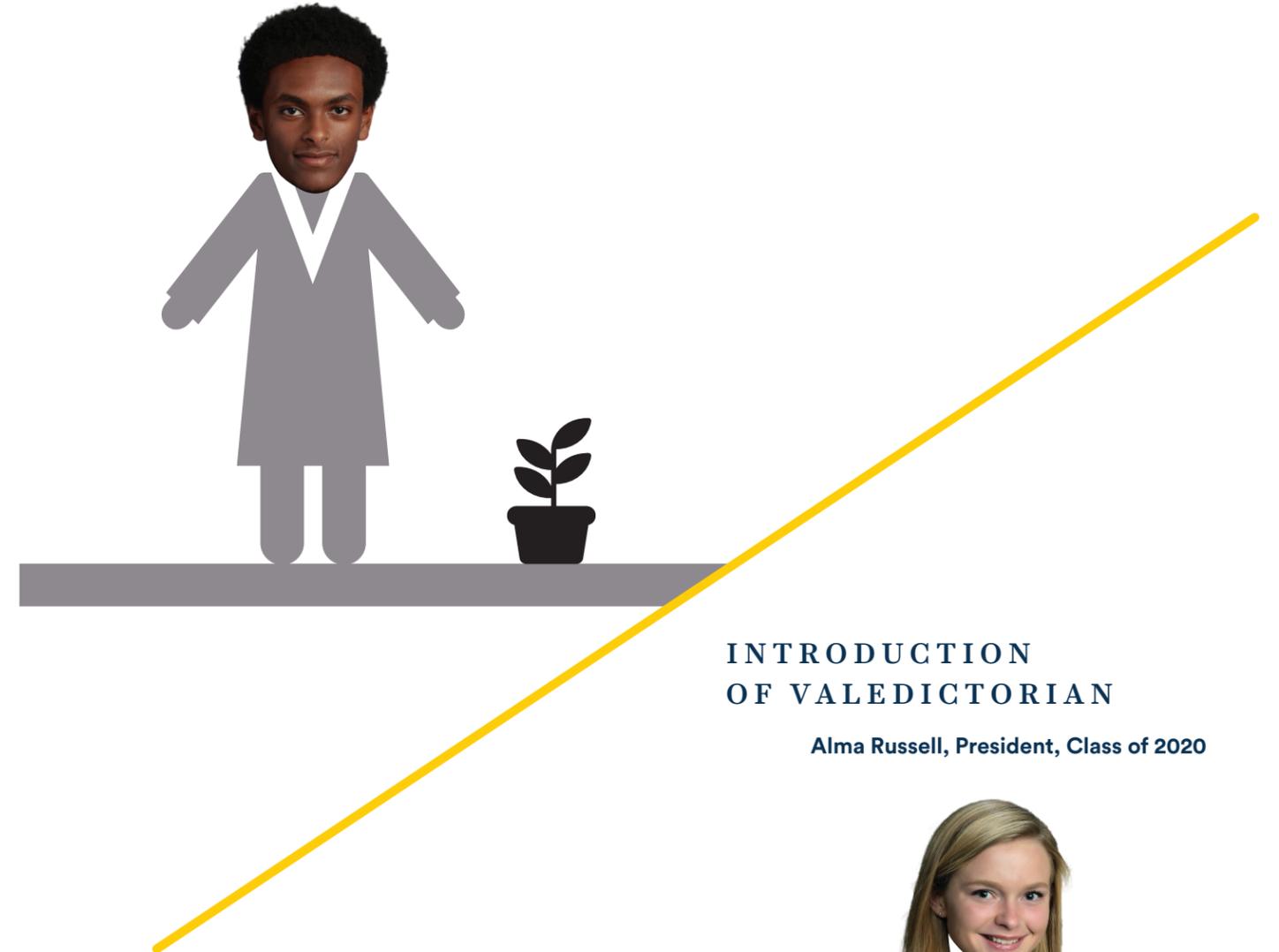
Congratulations Class of 2020!

Joseph Stewart  
Assistant Principal



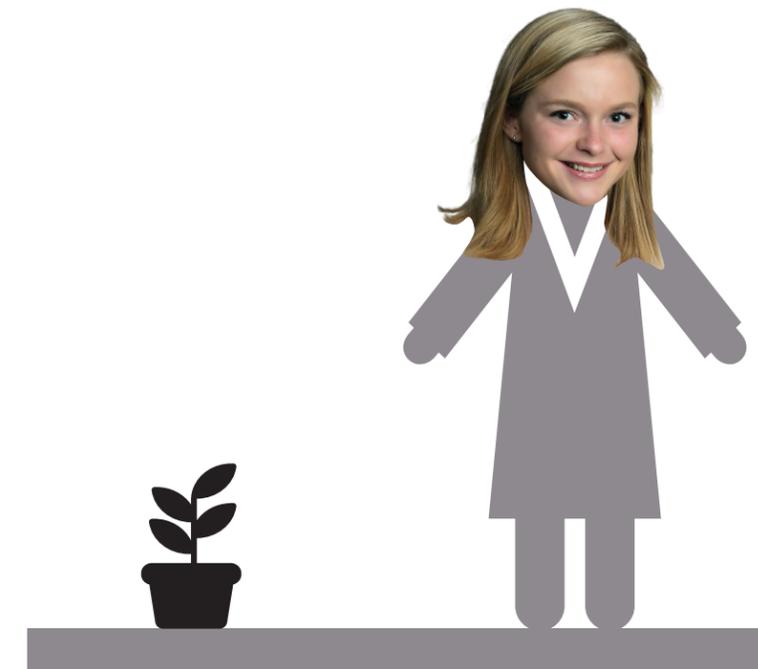
## INTRODUCTIONS

Emmanuel Gebremeskel, Student Congress President



## INTRODUCTION OF VALEDICTORIAN

Alma Russell, President, Class of 2020



## COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Maaz Usmani, Valedictorian, Class of 2020

Dear Graduates of the Class of 2020,

It's weird. This feels like I'm answering a short answer question, and I hate short answers. They're supposed to be short, concise, emotionless responses with right and wrong answers. And to be quite honest, I'm not sure how to answer this short response since my experience at Walnut was the very opposite: a rollercoaster ride dotted with both growth and love. I remember first boarding this rollercoaster. I was a timid 7th grader (apparently known as "effies" here) that was asked to study a "dead language," whatever that's supposed to mean. The roller coaster then took me to the basketball court, where I was introduced to the concept of life-long friends. Up next were pep rallies: places where we were expected to scream. But I can't continue without mentioning the hallways. The hallways were where the tracks of my roller coaster were located. My ride was often slowed down because of congested traffic that forced me to suit up with a backpack at all times. Yet these hallways are what's most memorable to me because they're where the people that changed my life trekked.

A new scene was set as I explored the long hallways of this new destination: people from all walks of life, cultures, and various upbringings were forced to mingle as they awkwardly stood in these crammed passageways. I came from a small private school, with a total of six people in my grade, to a public school with hundreds; to say I was entering a world of oblivion is probably an understatement. These hallways did more than just connect classrooms; they formed bonds among their passengers. I will never forget the timeless relationships and simple conversations we shared. It's the family that is our senior class that made Walnut special.

March 12th, 2020. Little did I know this would be the last time I would drowsily grab the wheel and make the hour-long commute to school. The last time I would run up the big steps and hurriedly walk past those overly comfortable Roman statues. The last time I would give my homemade Pakistani food to my boys at lunch in the arcade. The last time I would hear Mr. Stewart say "It's a cold day outside and a warm day inside, and as always, it's a great day to be an Eagle" over the announcements. The last time I would goof off with my friends and use senioritis as an excuse to procrastinate on my homework. It is these small memories that we will remember forever as we enter the next chapter of our lives.

These seemingly insignificant moments we used to experience each day allowed us to come together as a community. Whether that entailed pulling all-nighters studying, or joining the Nut House on Friday nights to celebrate our sports teams, we did everything together. And together we can continue to exceed expectations and overcome any obstacle.

The future holds uncertainty, but what's wrong with that? Uncertainty creates room for creativity; uncertainty sparks curiosity. As we enter the next phases of our lives, I ask that you all search for uncertainty, and once you find it, hold on tight to it. We will be placed in difficult situations and be asked to answer questions with no obvious solutions. But, that's where our class shines. We are currently on a journey no one has been on before, and that is okay. We will continue to make a difference and slowly solve these questions.

So here it is, my answer to this short answer question.

Congratulations to the Class of 2020, Mamba out



## CONFERRAL OF DIPLOMAS

Ryan Messer, CPS Board of Education



Walnut Hills Class of 2020:

No question, the year 2020 will be forever etched in our minds. But for you, the graduating class of 2020, this year has been especially difficult and even unfair. This very important chapter of your life is closing under unimaginable circumstances.

Fortunately, time goes on and you have some of your greatest experiences and adventures ahead. While you will always remember this year, you will soon be completely fixed on what comes next. Whether you plan to go on to college, enlist in the military or join the world of work – these are exciting times for you.

The good news is that you will be going forward in a new and different world and we are counting on you to continue to shape our new normal. During this time, we got to pause a bit and spend time with our families. Some of us connected virtually with loved ones that we may never have done so otherwise. We also learned to be creative as we sought to live through very uncertain times that challenged everything we knew.

Maybe now, more than ever, we need you. There is critical work to be done in the world, and you can make a difference. We need you to take what has been done well and make it better. And we need you to take what's wrong and fix it. We need you to devise new solutions for old problems. And we need you to develop the skills and ingenuity required to resolve issues none of us today can begin to contemplate.

I wish that you not just achieve great things, but that you do it in a way that speaks to the best and kindest part of your nature and never leaves behind the most vulnerable members of our society. We need that in our future leaders.

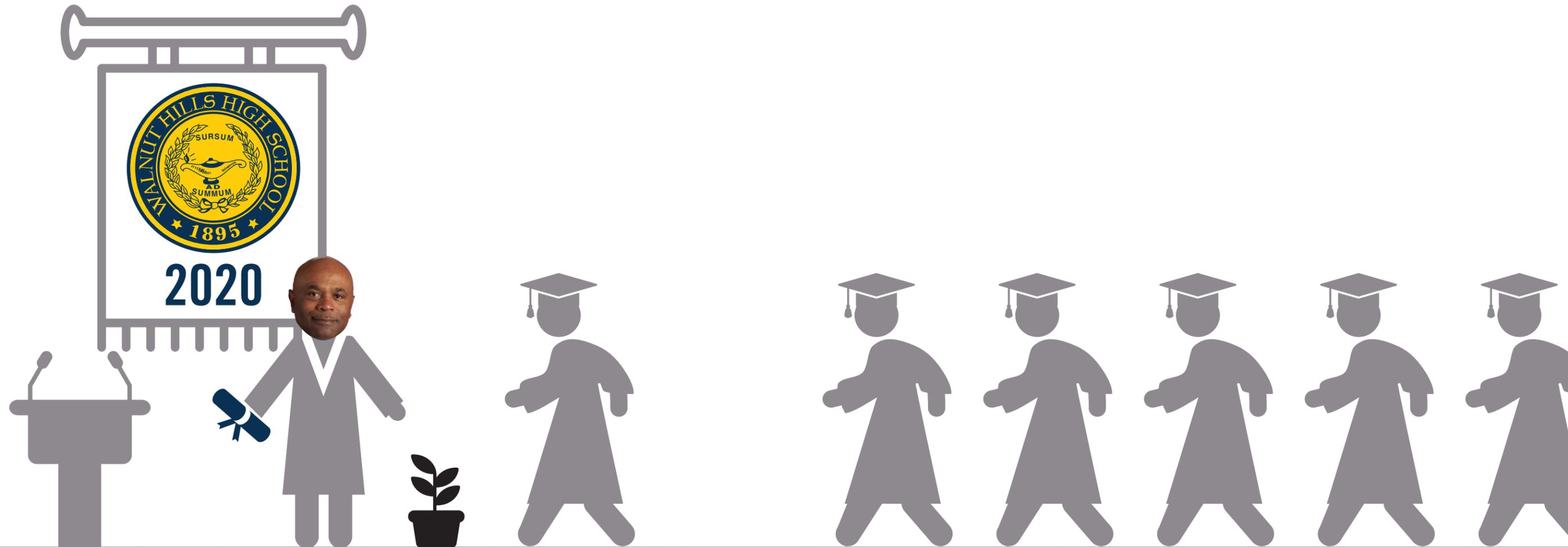
In closing, just know that we are proud of you and excited for what you will do next. Young people today have made their voices heard and have already begun to make significant impact to our world...I can only imagine what's to come. I know you are all up for this challenge.

Congratulations on your success. We are all looking forward to the impact head from the class of 2020. Now, go forth and use your skills, experiences, passions and beliefs to make this world better!

You've got this.

Ryan L. Messer  
Vice President  
Cincinnati Board of Education

DISTRIBUTION OF DIPLOMAS



Edward James Abernathy Jr. | Victor Gustavo Abitabilo | Abdullah AbuDakhan | Joan Elizabeth Acio-Alele | Megan Margaret Adam | Molly Louise Adam | Suvan Adhikari | Haseeb Anas Ahmad | Georgia Shae Albright | Isaiah Zachary Andersen | Anthony James Annis | Madysen Kiara Renee Autry | Angelina Grace Backers | Tyrese Lee Banks Dorn | Jenna Elizabeth Barkman | Anna Louise Barlow | Samuel Jan Bartos | Anson Lee Battoclette | Gerald Robert Beerck | Griffin Milo Behnfeldt | Lucy Kathryn Berlage | Ethan Michael Bernard | Finn Mercury Biales | Clayton Jeffrey Bickel | Noah Thomas Bigger | Calvin Andrew Bigham | Donovan William Blackley | John Layne Blevins | Nyree Ahvay Bonner | Amaya Danielle Boyd | Jamar Ebon Brady | Shadez Letaya Brandon | Bailey Mae Brant | Noah Joseph Braun | Damien James Breen-Holley | Clare Anne Brennan | Shannon Leneal Brewster Jr. | Meoshea La Shawn Britt | Savannah Ma'Kayla-Jenel Britton | Carlo Edward Bronzie | Miyah Renee Brooks | Aniyah Nicole Brown | Drew Wallace 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Carol-Lynn Lashay Craddolph | Cole Logan Cummins | Nicole Gabrielle Curley | Aleksandra Julia CyraneK | Elijah Mariner Dage | Daquan Nyshawn Daniels | Sean Kelly Darks | Rachel Dede Davies | Maleekah Cheyanne Davis | Avian Raine Dawson | Kelly Ann Deal | Clara Jane Dearden | Nickolas Stith Deck | Grace Arwen DeZarn | Fatimatou Diallo | Alexis Jevonne Elizabet Dicks | Reeya Manish Dighe | Caroline Rose Dillard | Leah Ainslie Dillon | Amiri Ngozi Diop-West Jr. | Anwar Monukay Lleweliz Dixon | Christina Renee Douglas | Madeline Hope Downie | Mara Sue Doyle | Joshua Ryan Duebber | Alexis Diamond Nicole Duffy | Anjali Nishamani Duke de Lanerolle | Sally Marie Dull | Julia Grace Blacklidge Dunn | John Francis Early | Madeline Grace Edie | Matthew Edward Eggers | Zachery Steven Eisentrout | Madeline Elizabeth Elkins | Nadya Serphima Ellerhorst | Grace Elizabeth Elliott | Ariana Amor Ellis | Taylor Rose Epperson | Alexander Hudson Ernsell | Bettina Ruth Ernst | Hayden Parker Ernst | Nicholas Wolfgang Eschenlohr | Kathryn Emerson Evans | Ky'Shawn De'Andre Evans | Luke Trujillo Faherty | Salma Mareme Fall | Anna Chen Fan | Peter John Featherston | Tae'auna Tanae Felton | Elizabeth Frances Ferre | William Conner Fitton | Kara Elizabeth Flaspohler | Zoie Jeanne Florian | Aidan Padraic Flynn | Gabrielle Alexandra Flynn-Tombragel | Samuel Coleman Frank | Megan Elsie Franke | Jasmine Deasa Frost | Bridget McKenna Fuller | Grace Kelly Fulton | Ryan Jeffrey Gambrel | Olivia Rose Garr | Emmanuel Gebremeskel | Madeline Beatrice Gelly | Emme Laurel Gerth | Bianca Theresa Gilmore | Milo Stanfield Ginn | Logan Tyler Glaser | Andrew Robert Goering | Georgia Emilie Goering | Gregg Matthew Gordon | Magdalene Elizabeth Gossard | Katherine Elizabeth Graeter | Caleb Isaiah Grant | Michael Edmon Grant | Allyson Faith Graves | Lydia Gale Graves | Tamir Moshe Alden Gray | Avery Augustus Grayton | LaLea Jasmine Gregory | Klarke Michelle Griffith | Thanh Liem Van Ha | Noah Elijah Hackworth | Dominic Robert Hagerty | Sarah Haile | Lydia Louise Hall | Jaiia Allis Hamilton | Jonah Vadim Hanrahan | Alivia Evonne Harris | Makaria Chenelle Harris | Tre Lamont Harris | Andrew Douglas Hart | Brooke Raquel Hart | Taylor Catherine Hauser | Leandra Isabella Hawkins | Mitchell Andrew Hedges | William Thaddaeus Heidelberg | Luke Anthony Heikenfeld | Henry Kele Heist | Jayla Angel Hendrix | Mary Catherine Henning | Emma Catherine Hensley | Benjamin Josef Hermes | Jose Arturo Hernandez Valenzuela | Luis Humberto Hernandez-Naranjo | John Harrison Hicks | Samuel Drake Hilbert | Danielle Rose Hines | Daisha Ann Hogan | Jasmine DeeAnne Hollifield | Olivia Jean Hollis | Benjamin Gary Holm-Bertelsen | Brianna Sharon Jade Hoover | Sabina Julian Hordinski | Aidan Scott Horstmeier | Caroline Lee Horvath | Colin Joseph Howard | Owen George Howard | Savanna Celstine Hsu | Hannah Huang | Patience Christine Rosetta Huddleston | Alaja Ali'onah Huff | Elliot John Hull | Jonah Christopher Human | Destyni Andrenique Hummons | Zakiya Ashanti Humphries | Andrew Michael Hust | William James Igoe | She'miah Teresa Ann Irvin | Chloe Marie-Noelle Jackson | Kayla Renne' Jackson | Theodore Miles Jacobson | Valencia Nicole James | Alan Charles Jay | Alayna Grace Jeffries | Stephanie Lee-Hyun Jenemann | Andrea Denise Jenkinson | Kiara Anita Rene' Jerdo | Nausiyah Measia Jetter Allen | Mercy Mumbua John | Alonna Denise Johnson | December Carol Johnson | Rikki Lee Santana Joiner | Amanda Lynne Jones | Santino Miyale Jordan | Emmett Udi Kaufman | Gabriel Seth Kaufman | Muskaan Kaur | Aiden Caudill Kearney | Isabella Nicole Keegan | Kamryn Riley Keehan | Allison Erin Keller | Holden Alexander Kelley | Jenna Rose Kiely | Isaac Jeong Joon Kim | Micah Jamir Kimble | Augustus Otto Bergquist Kindel | Sydney Patrice Kitchen | Nawame Mulatu Kitil | Megan Rose Klein | Tobias Andrew Kneueven | Tohonne Cheick Konare | Nigel James Krekeler | Alexander Dmitri Krietemeyer | Heidi Marie Krimmer | Kyra Leigh Krumins | Luke Patrick Kuchera | Gavin Ferguson Kursman | Lundyn Jah'riq Lane | Maia Nicole Lanier | Jackson Boyd Lark | Keililah Camille Larkin | Bryisha Nicole Lathan | Iris Elise LeCates | Emerson Grace Lecrone | Tahj Malik Lee | Joseph Gregory Leingang | Inaja Trine Lewis | Victor Tate Li | Julia Rose Lindenschmidt | Lauren Olivia Lintz | Logan Michael Lintz | Sarah Heavenly Little | Madison Amaiya Lockett | Morgan Denise Lockett | Anthony Tyrone Jessie Long | Nathan Marshall Long | Adam Patrick Lopez | Emma Daniel Luce | Isaac Benjamin Ludke | Alice Yelena Lundgren | John Anders Lundstedt | James Richard Magee | Shiv Ajay Malhotra | Abdelrahman R Mansour | Tyliah Jamya Rene' Marshall | Ava Diane Martin | London Kordai Lamar Martin | Tumelo Clay Martin-Weiler | Louis Petes Martini | Emma Maria Martyniuk | Jackson Paul Masur | William Charles McCarthy II | Omavi Jeremiah McClinton | Dylan Clint McGill | Derrick Steven McHale | Luke Alexander McSherry | Emily Maria Mehnert | Emmett Brown Meiners | Mesgana Mekibib | Matthew Carlos Menendez-Aponte | Naima Christiaan Miller | Julia Cornell Mitchell | Julian DeMarco Mitchell | Vincenzo Tomas Montelisciani | Benjamin Mathew Moore | Cristian Darin Morales-Alvarez | Cepada Dion Morgan | Muhammad Mudjtaba Muhammad | Molly Isabelle Munn | Nicholas James Murphy | Kennedy Reece Nadermann | Christina Jihee Nam | Abigail Constance Neurohr | Avery Annaliese Newman | Ravi Vinod Newman | Mariam Renee Niangane | Peter Michael Niemeyer | Isabel Francesca Nissley | Mama Njie | Katherine Elizabeth McGarry Noble | Katrazyna Ann Novak-Zawadzki | Theodora Rosebud O'Callaghan | Erin Marie O'Donnell | Yocheved Chigozie Ocho | Maya Grace Oerther | Rian Marie Oglesby | Maxwell Joseph Olberding | Ana Jimena Ortega Carreon | David Prescott Osterbrock II | Neil Kanna Ott | Magdalen Catherine Pagano | Navia Sharain Palmer | Sophia Keller Parshall | Siddharth D Patel | Isabella Michelle Paz | Alyse Nicole Pennington |

## SALUTATORIAN ADDRESS

Dhruv Rungta, Salutatorian, Class of 2020

I struggle to articulate years of emotions, memories, obstacles, and achievements in a finite time. What can I say other than an attempt to define the complexity of our class is futile? A complexity that shaped the delicate young effies that we once were into the passionate, determined, and bright adults we are today, impacted by the awareness of the unique circumstances we have been placed in and the sorrow from what we have lost. Defined also by pride in both our own and each other's perseverance to uphold the values of our generation. It is the experiences of watching flashes of blue and gold toil for victory on not only our fields, but also our stages, our classrooms, and the world that make us strive to define the future we have yet to write.

Our experiences taught us the importance of this complexity, the brilliance of our differences, and the magnificence of the world that we share. A beauty that stems from a unique approach to the task at hand or one that is based on a diverse set of fundamental morals. Realizations of the importance of perseverance, of falling and standing back up even more determined than before. A drive to push for a "maybe" when an institution tells you "no" and to demand a "yes" when it tells you "maybe". Realizations of the need to appreciate all who make efforts to aid the lives of those around them; that even if you are to navigate yourself to the pinnacle, it would be worthless without a strong base. A base that has been nurtured through what is just and that commitment to the common good.

To my friends and peers, I am honored to have been able to work alongside you and witness your empowering development. You have been an inspiration and a collective model, helping me strive to be the best person I can be. To my teachers, counselors, and all who have gone above and beyond in an attempt to guide us, I thank you for the lessons you have imparted upon us. Your experiences and stories are truly what gave me a passion to learn, and I know that your guidance will forever be remembered in our minds. To our family and friends, thank you for always being there to motivate us when we feel lost. Your support and encouragement are what enabled us to persist through our ebbs and flows.

To the class of 2020, thank you for shining light on the importance of our complexity. I am so excited to see how we will shape the world in the years to come. The pen of history has been passed on to us. One with which we can write a new story of open-mindedness and compassion, of excellence and pride, and the celebration of what holds us together and what makes us unique.

Thank you.

Dhruv Rungta '20  
Salutatorian



## FAREWELL

John Chambers, Principal

Board Member Messer, my fellow administrators, distinguished guests, faculty, family and friends: As I look upon this group of graduates from the Class of 2020, I cannot express the level of respect and admiration I have for these young men and women.

Graduates, you are truly an amazing group of students. Thrust into a surreal set of circumstances, you have comported yourselves with tremendous grace and dignity. By arriving at this day you have demonstrated the ability to persevere through the rigorous coursework and high expectations that have always marked a Walnut Hills High School education; but unlike any other graduate you did so through a pandemic that disrupted every aspect of your lives.

Despite being quarantined, you adapted to remote learning, found ways to stay connected, completed your studies, maintained friendships and embraced the coming uncertainty. You chose to embody the Walnut Hills High School motto, you chose to rise to the highest. I know this is not the type of senior year or graduation ceremony you envisioned; right now you may be feeling cheated and saddened at the loss of those long awaited rights-of-passage. But know this, your shared experience has created relationships and memories that are unique and will last a lifetime.

Although many now refer to wearing masks and social distancing as the new normal, I say "Not on Your Watch!" I acknowledge the landscape of social life has changed. However as we navigate the future, it is my firm belief that you, the Class of 2020, will be the ones to guide us through and bring us together.

Remember graduates, you are now the captains of your ship; you have the resiliency and strength to determine your future success. The guidance you have received from your parents, families, your teachers, counselors and your community has armed you with the ability to confidently make the decisions that will shape not just your lives, but our collective future.

Graduates, you have had the privilege of attending Walnut Hills High School and it has been an honor for us to have known you and taught you. I would like to thank your parents. Thank you for sharing your children with us. They have inspired us to be better administrators, better instructors and overall better people.

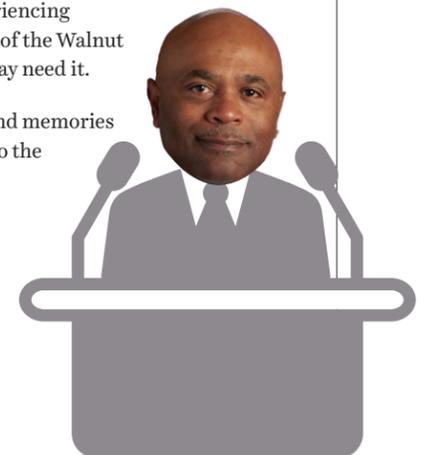
As a graduate of Walnut Hills High School, you have given yourselves something unique, a diploma from one of the top rated high schools in the country. The rigorous classical curriculum that leads to a Walnut Hills diploma tells universities they can be confident that you are fully prepared for future success.

Graduates, as you embark on the next chapter of your lives, hold fast to the principles that have been instilled in you at Walnut Hills. More than any class you have taken or lessons you have learned, I want you to remember to take care of yourselves. Take care of those that you know may be experiencing difficult circumstances; treat each other with kindness and empathy. As a member of the Walnut Hills family, a family who has compassion for others, provide light for those who may need it.

Finally graduates, celebrate your successes here at Walnut Hills. Hold fast to the fond memories that you've shared with your classmates and teachers. And, may you always aspire to the Walnut Hills motto, "*Sursum ad Summum*," rise to the highest.

Thank you and have a good evening.

John Chambers  
Principal



**THE ALMA MATER**  
**Graduation Ensemble**



Alma Mater Graduation Ensemble  
 directed by Anthony Nims

**WALNUT HILLS ALMA MATER**

HIGH ON THE HILL, THY STATELY DOME WE SEE,

SYMBOL OF HONOR, TRUTH AND LOYALTY;

WALNUT HILLS HIGH, THY NAME WE SIGN WITH PRIDE

THROUGHOUT OUR LIVES FOR E'ER BE OUR GUIDE

SURSUM AD SUMMUM, THY MOTTO WE UPHOLD;

WE THRILL TO THY BANNER, BLUE AND GOLD;

“OH RISE TO THE HIGHEST,” OUR VOICES LOUDLY CRY,

WE'LL BRING FAME AND GLORY TO WALNUT HILLS HIGH



**Walnut Hills High School**  
**2020 Graduating Class**

Edward James Abernathy Jr.  
 Victor Gustavo Abitabilo  
 Abdullah AbuDakhan  
 Joan Elizabeth Acio-Alele  
 Megan Margaret Adam  
 Molly Louise Adam  
 Jenna Renee Adams  
 Suvan Adhikari  
 Haseeb Anas Ahmad  
 Georgia Shae Albright  
 Isaiah Zachary Andersen  
 Anthony James Annis  
 Madysen Kiara Renee Autry  
 Angelina Grace Backers  
 Tyrese Lee Banks Dorn  
 Jenna Elizabeth Barkman  
 Anna Louise Barlow  
 Samuel Jan Bartos  
 Anson Lee Battoclette  
 Gerald Robert Beerck  
 Griffin Milo Behnfeldt  
 Lucy Kathryn Berlage  
 Ethan Michael Bernard  
 Finn Mercury Biales  
 Clayton Jeffrey Bickel  
 Noah Thomas Bigger  
 Calvin Andrew Bigham  
 Donovan William Blackley  
 John Layne Blevins  
 Nyree Ahvay Bonner  
 Amaya Danielle Boyd  
 Jamar Ebon Brady  
 Shadez Letaya Brandon  
 Bailey Mae Brant  
 Noah Joseph Braun  
 Damien James Breen-Holley  
 Clare Anne Brennan  
 Shannon Leneal Brewster Jr.  
 Meoshea La Shawn Britt  
 Savannah Ma'Kayla-Jenel Britton  
 Carlo Edward Bronzie  
 Miyah Renee Brooks  
 Aniyah Nicole Brown  
 Drew Wallace Brown  
 Justin William Brown  
 Gabrielle Eleze Brown-Strahorn  
 Hannah Rae Brubacher  
 Seth Joseph Brunner  
 Henry Parker Burchett  
 Darian Sha'rae Burgin  
 Chloe Rose Burwinkel  
 Lillian Rose Busse  
 Edgar Ford Byars  
 Margaret Patterson Byars  
 Miro Preston Calderas  
 Ella Kay Calhoun  
 Maisy Agnes Campbell Nelson  
 Corrine Grace Capannari  
 Amanda Marjorie Carden  
 Anna Bruce Carli  
 Logan Thomas Haven Carns  
 William Ashambe Carr  
 Kristen Marie Cathey  
 Gabriella Noelle Chatman  
 Rowan Chatterjee  
 Nicolas Chaves-Galeano  
 Gabrielle Grace Plana Chiong  
 Kathryn Joan Cholak  
 Chloe Ann Christian  
 Elliot Julian Edward Clarke  
 Savanna Cline Brito  
 Heather Grace Cochran  
 Domuniqua Olajowaun Cody

Jett Edward Coleman  
 Julian Alan Coley  
 Morgan Paige Cook  
 Kendal Lynchelle Cooke  
 Miles Aman Cooper  
 Kezia Vi Copeland  
 Ignatius Sylvester Corder  
 Luke Randall Cordill  
 Carson Raymond Corley Jr.  
 Paul Nabil Costandi  
 Jayare Durrell Cottrell  
 Khadija Marie Coulibaly  
 Ariana Carol-Lynn Lashay Craddolph  
 Cole Logan Cummins  
 Nicole Gabrielle Curley  
 Aleksandra Julia Cyraneck  
 Elijah Mariner Dage  
 Daquan Nyshawn Daniels  
 Sean Kelly Darks  
 Rachel Dede Davies  
 Maleekah Cheyanne Davis  
 Avian Raine Dawson  
 Kelly Ann Deal  
 Clara Jane Dearden  
 Nickolas Stith Deck  
 Grace Arwen DeZarn  
 Fatimatou Diallo  
 Alexis Jevonne Elizabeth Dicks  
 Reeya Manish Dighe  
 Caroline Rose Dillard  
 Leah Ainslie Dillon  
 Amiri Ngozi Diop-West Jr.  
 Anwar Monukay Lleweliz Dixon  
 Christina Renee Douglas  
 Madeline Hope Downie  
 Mara Sue Doyle  
 Joshua Ryan Duebber  
 Alexis Diamond Nicole Duffy  
 Anjali Nishamani Duke de Lanerolle  
 Sally Marie Dull  
 Julia Grace Blackledge Dunn  
 John Francis Early  
 Madeline Grace Edie  
 Matthew Edward Eggers  
 Zachery Steven Eisentrout  
 Madeline Elizabeth Elkins  
 Nadya Serphima Ellerhorst  
 Grace Elizabeth Elliott  
 Ariana Amor Ellis  
 Taylor Rose Epperson  
 Alexander Hudson Ernsell  
 Bettina Ruth Ernst  
 Hayden Parker Ernst  
 Nicholas Wolfgang Eschenlohr  
 Kathryn Emerson Evans  
 Ky'Shawn DeAndre Evans  
 Luke Trujillo Faherty  
 Salma Mareme Fall  
 Anna Chen Fan  
 Peter John Featherston  
 Tae'auna Tanae Felton  
 Elizabeth Frances Ferre  
 William Conner Fitton  
 Kara Elizabeth Flaspohler  
 Zoie Jeanne Florian  
 Aidan Padraic Flynn  
 Gabrielle Alexandra Flynn-Tombragel  
 Samuel Coleman Frank  
 Megan Elsie Franke  
 Jasmine Deasa Frost  
 Bridget McKenna Fuller  
 Grace Kelly Fulton  
 Ryan Jeffrey Gambrel

Olivia Rose Garr  
 Emmanuel Gebremeskel  
 Madeline Beatrice Gelly  
 Emme Laurel Gerth  
 Bianca Theresa Gilmore  
 Milo Stanfield Ginn  
 Logan Tyler Glaser  
 Andrew Robert Goering  
 Georgia Emilee Goering  
 Gregg Matthew Gordon  
 Magdalene Elizabeth Gossard  
 Katherine Elizabeth Graeter  
 Caleb Isaiah Grant  
 Michael Edmon Grant  
 Allyson Faith Graves  
 Lydia Gale Graves  
 Tamir Moshe Alden Gray  
 Avery Augustus Grayton  
 LaLea Jasmine Gregory  
 Klarke Michelle Griffith  
 Thanh Liem Van Ha  
 Noah Elijah Hackworth  
 Dominic Robert Hagerty  
 Sarah Haile  
 Lydia Louise Hall  
 Jaiia Allis Hamilton  
 Jonah Vadim Hanrahan  
 Alivia Evonne Harris  
 Makaria Chenelle Harris  
 Tre Lamont Harris  
 Andrew Douglas Hart  
 Brooke Raquel Hart  
 Taylor Catherine Hauser  
 Leandra Isabella Hawkins  
 Mitchell Andrew Hedges  
 William Thaddaeus Heidelberg  
 Luke Anthony Heikenfeld  
 Henry Kele Heist  
 Jayla Angel Hendrix  
 Mary Catherine Henning  
 Emma Catherine Hensley  
 Benjamin Josef Hermes  
 Jose Arturo Hernandez Valenzuela  
 Luis Humberto Hernandez-Naranjo  
 John Harrison Hicks  
 Samuel Drake Hilbert  
 Danielle Rose Hines  
 Daisha Ann Hogan  
 Jasmine DeeAnne Hollifield  
 Olivia Jean Hollis  
 Benjamin Gary Holm-Bertelsen  
 Brianna Sharon Jade Hoover  
 Sabina Julian Hordinski  
 Aidan Scott Horstmeier  
 Caroline Lee Horvath  
 Colin Joseph Howard  
 Owen George Howard  
 Savanna Celstine Hsu  
 Hannah Huang  
 Patience Christine Rosetta Huddleston  
 Alaja Ali'onah Huff  
 Elliot John Hull  
 Jonah Christopher Human  
 Destyni Andrenique Hummons  
 Zakiya Ashanti Humphries  
 Andrew Michael Hust  
 William James Igoe  
 She'miah Teresa Ann Irvin  
 Chloe Marie-Noelle Jackson  
 Kayla Renne' Jackson  
 Theodore Miles Jacobson  
 Valencia Nicole James  
 Alan Charles Jay  
 Alayna Grace Jeffries  
 Stephanie Lee-Hyun Jenemann  
 Andrea Denise Jenkinson  
 Kiara Anita Rene' Jerdo  
 Nausiyah Measia Jetter Allen  
 Mercy Mumbua John  
 Alonna Denise Johnson  
 December Carol Johnson

Piper Violet Johnson  
 Rikki Lee Santana Joiner  
 Amanda Lynne Jones  
 Santino Miyale Jordan  
 Emmett Udi Kaufman  
 Gabriel Seth Kaufman  
 Muskaan Kaur  
 Aiden Caudill Kearney  
 Isabella Nicole Keegan  
 Kamryn Riley Keehan  
 Allison Erin Keller  
 Holden Alexander Kelley  
 Jenna Rose Kiely  
 Isaac Jeong Joon Kim  
 Micah Jamir Kimble  
 Augustus Otto Bergquist Kindel  
 Sydney Patrice Kitchen  
 Nawame Mulatu Kitil  
 Megan Rose Klein  
 Tobias Andrew Kneueven  
 Thahon Cheick Konare  
 Nigel James Krekeler  
 Alexander Dmitri Krietemeyer  
 Heidi Marie Krimmer  
 Kyra Leigh Krumins  
 Luke Patrick Kuchera  
 Gavin Ferguson Kursman  
 Lundyn Jah'riq Lane  
 Maia Nicole Lanier  
 Jackson Boyd Lark  
 Keililah Camille Larkin  
 Bryisha Nicole Lathan  
 Iris Elise LeCates  
 Emerson Grace Lecrone  
 Tahj Malik Lee  
 Joseph Gregory Leingang  
 Luke Anthony Heikenfeld  
 Inaja Trine Lewis  
 Victor Tate Li  
 Julia Rose Lindenschmidt  
 Lauren Olivia Lintz  
 Logan Michael Lintz  
 Sarah Heavenly Little  
 Madison Amaiya Lockett  
 Morgan Denise Lockett  
 Anthony Tyrone Jessie Long  
 Nathan Marshall Long  
 Adam Patrick Lopez  
 Emma Daniel Luce  
 Isaac Benjamin Ludke  
 Alice Yelena Lundgren  
 John Anders Lundstedt  
 James Richard Magee  
 Shiv Ajay Malhotra  
 Abdelrahman R Mansour  
 Tyliah Jamya Rene' Marshall  
 Ava Diane Martin  
 London Kordai Lamar Martin  
 Tumelo Clay Martin-Weiler  
 Louis Petes Martini  
 Emma Maria Martyniuk  
 Jackson Paul Masur  
 William Charles McCarthy II  
 Omavi Jeremiah McClinton  
 Dylan Clint McGill  
 Derrick Steven McHale  
 Luke Alexander McSherry  
 Emily Maria Mehnert  
 Emmett Brown Meiners  
 Mesgana Mekibib  
 Matthew Carlos Menendez-Aponte  
 Naima Christian Miller  
 Julia Cornell Mitchell  
 Julian DeMarco Mitchell  
 Vincenzo Tomas Montelisciani  
 Benjamin Mathew Moore  
 Cristian Darin Morales-Alvarez  
 Cepada Dion Morgan  
 Muhammad Mudjtaba Muhammad  
 Molly Isabelle Munn  
 Nicholas James Murphy  
 Kennedy Reece Nadermann



Christina Jihee Nam  
 Abigail Constance Neurohr  
 Avery Annaliese Newman  
 Ravi Vinod Newman  
 Mariam Renee Niangane  
 Peter Michael Niemeyer  
 Isabel Francesca Nissley  
 Mama Njie  
 Katherine Elizabeth McGarry Noble  
 Katrazyna Ann Novak-Zawadzki  
 Theodora Rosebud O'Callaghan  
 Erin Marie O'Donnell  
 Yocheved Chigozie Ocho  
 Maya Grace Oerther  
 Rian Marie Oglesby  
 Maxwell Joseph Olberding  
 Ana Jimena Ortega Carreon  
 David Prescott Osterbrock II  
 Neil Kanna Ott  
 Magdalen Catherine Pagano  
 Navia Sharain Palmer  
 Sophia Keller Parshall  
 Siddharth D Patel  
 Isabella Michelle Paz  
 Alyse Nicole Pennington  
 Grace Eleanor Pepiton  
 Evan James Peters  
 LeVar Allen Pharris Jr.  
 Gabrielle Lee Phillips  
 Helen Grace Pickering  
 Dejah Simone Pickett  
 Mohit Kumar Pinninti  
 Caleb William Price  
 Matthew Charles Proietti  
 Talia Esther Raider-Roth  
 Madelyn Elizabeth Raisch  
 Elizabeth Virginia Ramos  
 Mackenzie Brianna Lynn Rasheed  
 Nathan Clarence Tiberius Remotigue  
 William John Rentz-McCoy  
 Brianna Renee Reynolds  
 William Ugochukwu Glenn Reynolds-Uti  
 Colin Frederick Riggins  
 Timothy Joseph Rigney  
 Seth Lewis Ross  
 Nathan Locksley Rudnick  
 Zarría Desiree Ruff  
 Dhruv Krishna Rungta  
 Jannai Huang-Jing Rupp  
 Alma Caroline Russell  
 Jack Nolan Samuels  
 Piper Anne Sauerbrunn  
 Evan James Conlon Saxton  
 Sebastian William Thomas Schemmel  
 Charles James Schenk  
 Andrea Noelle Schepher  
 Peter James Schlueter  
 Eric Lee Schmidt II  
 Emily Nicole Schnettler  
 Joseph Theron Schnizer  
 Eva Ariel Schomaeker  
 Ryan Edward Schrenk  
 Ella Augusta Schultian  
 Everett Cain Schulze  
 Beau Andrew Schureck  
 Abigail Frances Schwartz  
 James-Daniel Raider Scott  
 Luke Antonio Scretchen  
 McKenzie Davis Scudder  
 Jamison Tyler Sedgwick  
 Aaron Michael Sequeira  
 Gregory Hunter Sharp  
 Jordan Renee Sharp  
 Nosagie Aikhionbare Sherman  
 Sarah Michael Shirey  
 Spencer William Shroyer  
 Spencer Marshall Shuey  
 Maxwell Bernard Simon  
 Saulomon Malik Simpson  
 Maya Nicole Sivakumaran  
 Dontasia Arieyonna Slater

Samuel Alan Smallwood  
 Camryn Michelle Smith  
 Ellen Margaret Smith  
 Jaiden Riley Smith  
 Julian Douglas Smith  
 Shabrya Clarissa Smith  
 Stuart Dominic Smith Jr.  
 Adam Christopher Smyth  
 Mason Cosette Snyder  
 Maria Hemmi Song  
 Jaylee Ann Sowders  
 Marcell Samuel Speed  
 Samuel Kobe Spicer  
 Jackson Clay Spieser  
 Madeleine Mae Katie Stafford  
 Noah Benjamin Stafford  
 Jerien Amir Stallings  
 Allyson Kay Standley  
 Elizabeth Rose Stanton  
 Sterling Nyx Stark  
 Samantha Grace Stenger  
 Amyah Charnae Stephens  
 Eliana Page Stevens  
 Charles Horacio Stewart  
 Colin McDonald Stewart  
 Max Dushan Stojanovic  
 Sophia Marie Sturgeon  
 Katherine Diana Sutkamp  
 Sidney Rae Switzer  
 David Watts Taffe  
 Brady Allen Tagge  
 Ana Elyse Taylor  
 Jabari Earl Taylor  
 Rhyann Danielle Taylor  
 Greta Amelia Tebbe  
 Cassidy Drew Tennyson  
 Serigine Saliou Thiam  
 Grayce Christensen Thierauf  
 Keshawn Leandre Thomas  
 Darren Thomas-Dixon  
 Logan James Thrower  
 Olivia Alison Tombragel  
 Aaron Ewalt Tossey  
 Anijah Jichelle Triggs  
 Collin Jack Trissel  
 Rosa Turov  
 Malia Marie Tucker  
 Zakary Grigg Upson  
 Maaz Ahsan Usmani  
 Frances Evalyn Vainrib  
 Ashley Faith Veldhaus  
 Terts Lucas Verhaak  
 Joaquin Manuel Vigo-Alejandro  
 Jakob Frank Vilinsky  
 Anabel Elena Villanueva  
 Julia Ryan Vincent  
 Oliver Herrick Vockell  
 Samuel James Vogel  
 Jeffrey Steven Vonderschmidt Jr.  
 Avery Bess Vota  
 Zoe Isabella Waddle  
 Kelsey Violet Leonella Wade  
 Mackenzie Belle Waggoner  
 Aaliyah Dana Walker  
 Juella Rinae Walker  
 Louis James Walro  
 Emma Ruby Walters  
 Jackson Pierce Ward  
 Nevaeh Anyla Ward  
 Sarina Lanae Ware  
 Angelica Crista Warner  
 Audrey Marie Warren  
 McKenna Ann Warvel  
 Alexa Ray Webster  
 Taylor Alexis Weidenhamer Alexander  
 Jacob Franck Wendel  
 Channah Atiya Whipple  
 Adam Marcus White  
 Logan Anthony White  
 Naomi Elise White  
 Isabel Alexandra Wiest



**2020 CUM LAUDE INITIATES**

Joan Elizabeth Acio-Ale  
 Megan Margaret Adam  
 Molly Louise Adam  
 Suvan Adhikari  
 Gerald Robert Beerck  
 Noah Thomas Bigger  
 Calvin Andrew Bigham  
 Meoshea L Britt  
 Carlo E Bronzie  
 Edgar Ford Byars  
 Corrine Grace Capannari  
 Rowan Chatterjee  
 Gabrielle Grace Plana Chiong  
 Paul Jr. Costandi  
 Clara Jane Dearden  
 Grace Arwen DeZarn  
 Reeya Manish Dighe  
 Leah A Dillon  
 Amiri Ngozi Diop-West  
 Sally Marie Dull  
 Julia Grace Blacklidge Dunn  
 Matthew Edward Eggers  
 Nadya Serphima Ellerhorst  
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 William Conner Fitton  
 Samuel Katherine Frank  
 Bridget McKenna Fuller  
 Grace K Fulton  
 Emmanuel Gebremeskel  
 Madeline Beatrice Gelly  
 Tamir M Gray  
 Thanh Liam Van Ha  
 Jonah Vadim Hanrahan  
 Andrew Douglas Hart  
 Leandra Hawkins  
 Benjamin Gary Holm-Bertelsen  
 Caroline Lee Horvath  
 Colin Joseph Howard  
 Owen George Howard  
 Stephanie Lee-Hyun Jenemann  
 Muskaan Kaur  
 Micah J Kimble  
 Augustus Kindel  
 Nawame Mulatu Kitil  
 Tobias A Knueven  
 Nigel Krekeler  
 Gavin Ferguson Kursman  
 Iris Elise LeCates  
 Emerson G Lecrone

Joseph Leingang  
 Victor Tate Li  
 Julia Rose Lindenschmidt  
 John Anders Lundstedt  
 Shiv Ajay Malhotra  
 Matthew C Menendez-Aponte  
 Maisy A Nelson  
 Isabel Francesca Nissley  
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 Ryan Edward Schrenk  
 Aaron Sequeira  
 Maxwell Bernard Simon  
 Maya Sivakumaran  
 Ellen Margaret Smith  
 Julian Douglas Smith  
 Adam Christopher Smyth  
 Maria H Song  
 Jackson Clay Spieser  
 Samantha Stenger  
 Katherine Diana Sutkamp  
 Brady A Tagge  
 Cassidy D Tennyson  
 Grayce Christensen Thierauf  
 Olivia Alison Tombragel  
 Zakary Grigg Upson  
 Maaz Ahsan Usmani  
 Anabel Elena Villanueva  
 Julia Vincent  
 Oliver Herrick Vockell  
 Esme Elizabeth Wright  
 Nicholas John Zannis  
 Robert E Zavon  
 Alan G Zhang

**ALUMNI NOTES OF ENCOURAGEMENT**

**Fellow Eagles send notes from far and wide**

'81

Dear Class of 2020,

In my junior and senior years, I was very ill and I missed quite a bit of school. However, I was able to still graduate. My fondest memory – and one that remains with me today – is receiving a standing ovation from my classmates at Music Hall at our commencement.

I was diagnosed with a brain tumor. I was given two years to live. ... Obviously, I've survived well beyond the diagnosis. .... The kids that I graduated with, 330 of us, we just got together, about 70 of us, for our 35th reunion. And I still maintain all those contacts very strongly.

Albert Wang  
 Class of 1981

Dear 2020 Senior class at WHHS,

These are extraordinary times we are living in now. Things are happening that we never expected or prepared for; however, with all the training and education that you've received over the last few years, the last thing anyone expected was no recognition or appreciation for all your hard work.

Well I am a gospel minister, a man of faith and a proud Eagle alumni (c/o'82) and I'm well aware of the work involved in getting through Walnut, even though it seemed to happen so fast and take a lifetime, all at the same time. I know that all of the senior class traditions: grad night, senior prom, and others were skipped due to the pandemic, but life is full of challenges and your perseverance up to this point HAS PREPARED YOU for the vicissitudes (one of my favorite words learned in AA English in 10th grade) of life. May the Lord continually bless and keep you all and always send a word of encouragement throughout these ever-challenging times. You are appreciated and your work does not go unnoticed by your parents, true friends, faculty, and those who will invest in you in the years to come.

Rev.Thomas J. Allen, Jr.  
 Class of 1982

Dear Walnut Hills Class of 2020,

I can only imagine the frustration and anxiety you must feel upon not being able to gather together to celebrate your graduation. My message to you is to let this moment help you discern how you want to live your life and how you want to contribute to our society.

You are graduating at a moment when the world is uncertain and in flux—it's yours to change for the better. Congratulations and best of luck!

Lee Ann Custer  
 Class of 2005

'05



'06

Congratulations c/o 2020! You DID it!

First things first, give yourself a round of applause for making it through high school! That is not a small feat. I remember first-hand how difficult it was to keep grades up, balance home life and activities, friendship and so much more as a teenager. I'm certain you have learned a lot about yourselves in the last 4 years and I'm sure that the person who first stepped foot into Walnut several years ago seems like a stranger to you now. Be proud of the things you have overcome and accomplished thus far. Take pride in your mistakes and failures also, those will guide you forever and they are nothing to be ashamed of. The next years of your life will be full of excitement and unpredictability. Becoming an adult is one of the most momentous transitions you will have to make in life. Be open, be brave, be strong. Always go with your first mind. Be a leader. The world can be a very dark place, especially now, but always prioritize your light and share it with society every chance you get. Remember to live each day with gratitude; never waste or take for granted an opportunity to show love and appreciation to your support system, the people in your life who have shown you time and time again that they will never give up on you. Take time to be young and have fun, don't rush through the years ahead without stopping to smell the roses often. Pursue your passions, love effortlessly and soak up as much wisdom and knowledge from wherever it may flow. The best is yet to come. Stay safe, be well and best of luck in all of your future endeavors. Forever and always: SURSUM AD SUMMUM.

Clara Jackson  
Class of 2006

To graduating Seniors:

This will end up as just a blip on your life story, though more memorable than for many others. Remember where you were, and how you spent your time in this moment, and use it to move forward and to make the world around you better. This is a big step, but not the only step. Continue to choose your courses wisely and seek not just success but fulfillment. Congratulations!

Ashley Trotter, M.D.  
Class of 2004

'04

WHHS is the best school that prepared me to go to college and on to other universities.

I am proud to be a graduate of WHHS. After college, go out to see the world and meet its challenges.

In the meantime, stay in touch with your WHHS Alumni Foundation.

Hope Tye  
Class of 1943

'43

'67

Haiku for the Graduates of WHHS 2020

CLOUDS GATHER, STORM NEARS

CHICK STRUGGLES TO LEAVE THE NEST

EAGLE SOARS ONCE MORE

Denny Kato  
Class of 1967

'52

Dear Seniors,

What a bummer! I'm sure you never pictured the spring of 2020 quite like this. Just as you were ready to step out and take on the world, the world closed down and you are stuck at home with all your plans on hold. The Alumni Office thinks we previous WHHS graduates have words of support and encouragement to offer. I originally deleted their request. What self-respecting kid wants to listen to an old person? But to be honest I still have the occasional nightmare that my high school French teacher shows up to snatch back my diploma, so I'd better do what WHHS says. Here are a few thoughts:

One, you have plenty of time to figure out what you are going to do with your life. If the first try isn't successful there's always the second or third. Even after more than eight decades I'm still exploring new interests and challenges.

Two, never underestimate your strength. You are already learning that you can handle disappointment. You are also assessing who your caring friends and family members are and how you, in turn, can support them. Resilience comes from piling up successful experiences to recall when you hit the next bad patch.

Three, don't get too complacent. If there's a chance for an adventure, take it. You have just learned that you never know what is coming next, so don't postpone any chance to laugh, learn and love.

Four, grieve for the plans that got lost and the fun that got canceled but take credit for your achievement. No one can take that WHHS diploma away even if it comes in the mail.

Five, embrace the opportunity that has been presented to your generation to remake our country, even the world. As much as we elderly may regale you with lists of the improvements in technology and social justice we have seen in our lifetimes, the truth is, this pandemic has uncovered fundamental problems in our nation for your generation to solve. You, dear WHHS graduates, are the smart, well educated kids who will be the leaders in this post-COVID world. Seize the opportunity. There is much to do.

Congratulations graduates!

All the best,

Charlotte Wright Lipfert  
Class of 1952

To: Senior Class of 2020

From: Graduate Class of 1965

First and foremost “CONGRATULATIONS” on receiving your diploma from Walnut Hills High School, and much success with your post-secondary endeavors and the rest of your life.

You should be proud of your accomplishment of completing the very rigorous academic requirements of a Walnut Hills education. Your learnings, experiences and achievements at WHHS will serve you well throughout the rest of your life -- in your higher education pursuits, professionally and personally.

You have met the challenges of secondary education and demonstrated intellectual capability, character and perseverance. These are qualities that will be with you ongoing. Now is the time to formulate your long term life vision and develop a mission plan for the next critical steps that need to be achieved.

It is unfortunate that the current pandemic will prevent you from participating in the formal graduation ceremony. However, global and life realities are this likely will be only one of many unforeseen and uncontrollable events and challenges that lay ahead and you will have to navigate. Do not be distracted by this “bump in the road,” look toward the next milestone in your life journey. Do not fret about what “could or should have been,” focus on the next opportunity or gate on the road to your long term future.

Finally, use this moment to identify and reflect upon the individuals who have supported and enabled your achievements at WHHS and in life. It is appropriate to profusely acknowledge and “Thank” these people personally and provide them the chance to celebrate with you.

In closing, work hard, count your blessings, graciously accept luck, nurture positive friendships and relationships, celebrate your successes and keep your focus on your goals.

Much success going forward...

Bob Wuerdeman  
Class of 1965

’65

Seniors,

This is definitely not the ideal way to end your last year of high school, but it is what it is. That said, you don’t come from weak stock. Walnut’s been around for 125 years, so we’ve seen a lot. While I feel for y’all, I know that y’all will make it out on the other end. Walnut doesn’t really teach us to quit when faced with hardship.

Quoting songs is hard, but, at the end of “Me Against the World”, Tupac says this:

“I know it seems hard sometimes, but remember one thing. Through every dark night, there’s a bright day after that. No matter how hard it gets, stick your chest out, keep your head up, and handle it”

That’s one of my favorite Tupac songs because it reminds me that things are only as complicated as I ever decide to make them. It’s gotten hard from time to time, but I haven’t lost yet. I’m not going to either. Maybe you’ll find some strength in that song too.

From a member of Walnut’s 2015 class,

Joseph A. White, B.S..

’15

Dear Senior Class of 2020:

This year has been an extraordinary year and because of the pandemic, you haven’t gotten to experience in school the last two months of your senior year. I’m sure you miss seeing your friends, teachers, counselors, and librarians, and it doesn’t seem fair that you are missing all the senior rights of passage, like graduation, Senior Send-off, getting signatures in the Remembrancer, and saying goodbye to everyone.

But you still have a bright future ahead! Walnut students are strong and resilient. Over the past 125 years, we have survived all kinds of catastrophes, like The Great Depression and WWII. Whether you are going off to college, taking a gap year, working, or doing something else, I send you this message:

Work hard at what you love to do, be kind-hearted and help the suffering, do good in the world, do not be afraid to be who you are, and lastly, my final message as your librarian is to keep reading books! Books are your lifelong friends and will teach you about people and places in the world and keep you company in both good and hard times. Seniors, we love you and want you to be successful and happy!

Sursum ad summum,

Mrs. Ellen Wathen  
Librarian, WHHS Library

Dear Class of 2020,

This pandemic has affected everyone’s lives. It has cast fear, uncertainty, and anxiety into our lives. And for certain it has disrupted your lives as graduating seniors.

It took me a while to come to grips with the “new normal.” Let me tell you how I am coping.

This virus is bigger than all of us. Medical science is stymied by it. It has overwhelmed our medical system and our government. While I still feel overwhelmed at times, I remember that my faith will get me through this difficult time. No matter what your religion is, or if you don’t practice any religions, find a source of spiritual strength to get you through. There is always a higher power to guide you.

I know that however I come out of this pandemic, I will have had undying faith in God and I know that my life (as well as my family’s life) depends on God’s plan for me.

Also, remember that there is a future. It may be different than what we planned. We may have to overcome loss and sadness, but on the other side there will be joy and hope.

I wish you all the best as you enter the next phase of your educational experience, whether it is college, a gap year, or the military (yes, people in my class joined the military!). It seems bleak now, but sursum ad summum, rise to the highest, and you will come out the other side a better and stronger person.

All the best,

Cheryl Ruben Vogel  
Class of 1976

’76

'85

Dear Walnut Hills Class of 2020,

2020 started with so many hopes and dreams—your last semester of high school, the pinnacle! Then suddenly, at the end of 3rd quarter, when you didn't even know it was happening, your last day as a student in the halls of Walnut Hills came and went. There was no fanfare, no final walk through the halls with the underclassmen cheering you. It was just over. And you didn't even know it. That sucks. There is nothing fair about your final quarter being stolen from you by a virus.

The teachers and administrators will do their best to give you a proper send-off, but it is not lost on them that whatever they construct will fall woefully short of what it should have been. I promise you, they hate that they can't fix it.

Know that as you grieve the loss of your Senior year, we grieve for you and all the missed lasts that you should have had but didn't. Your graduation ceremony—the pomp and circumstance, live and in person, is a rite of passage that you deserved to have.

You all will move on in expected ways – college, a job, the military, etc. Some of you will get married. Many of you will have children. This “will be a story to tell your grandchildren.” I know that most of you would trade in the story for a typical end to your Senior year. But, that is not the way it will be for the Class of 2020. Grieve for your loss. You have every right to do so. Don't let this untraditional ending derail you and your dreams, though. The graduates of Walnut Hills High School are well known for doing great things in the world. You are part of that elite group now. Rise up, Eagles!

The days are long, but the years are short. Go make some more memories and make your alma mater proud! Sursum ad summum!

Laura Stith Deck  
Class of 1985

'54

Personal Top Ten Beliefs/Attitudes From WHHS

10. No one was “ever your age” (West Side Story), so the older generation may never fully understand how you feel, but don't give up on them/us, as we share/have shared much, especially now.
9. Revere your H.S. experience. You grew up here, learned to question here, developed friendships here which will last a lifetime, fell in love here. Never stop supporting this institution which nurtured you into maturity.
8. Your parents might reemerge as smart, if not brilliant, people in just a few years; just give them the chance and listen intently.
7. Learn to really listen to, and see, others, their inflection, body language, facial expressions. These may tell you as much as the words you hear, so pay attention and learn to really communicate.
6. Get a liberal education where you do not specialize at age 17-18. Open windows you've never look through before. And never, ever stop questioning the “truth” of what you learn. Knowledge keeps changing and you must keep up. Never assume you know it all on any subject, as someone in the room may well know more.
5. Reach for the stars. Aim very high in every goal: *Sursum ad Summum* is not just a school motto but a way of life. Have no “if onlys” in your life.
4. Don't be afraid to fail in reaching high sometimes. Our family motto is “No one's perfect.” Use anxiety and fear the way actors do, to push themselves to greater heights.
3. Retain your optimism and take actions to support it. Society is improving, much too slowly, in achieving social, racial and economic equality, but it is improving. Retain your hope for better times always.
2. Understand that life on earth is a miracle; do not lose a sense of wonder about the world. Then you can never be bored.
1. Live a life of service to others. Albert Einstein (1879-1965, physicist and Nobel laureate) wrote: “Strange is our situation here on earth. Each one of us comes for a short visit, not knowing why, yet sometimes seeming to divine a purpose. From the standpoint of daily life however, there is one thing we do know, that man is here for the sake of other men.” Amen!

We alumni wish you only the best.

Edward B. (Ted) Silberstein, B.S., M.A., M.D.  
Class of 1954

I wish a life of adventure and discovery for each of you. The educational opportunity at Walnut Hills will have given you the tools to take risks like few others. Do not limit your future to any specific story you may have written. Life's timetable is elastic and what may seem like a barrier or setback often becomes the catalyst for distinguishing alternatives, new possibilities and unanticipated connections. This is not a 'time out', it is a time to immerse yourself creatively in the development of your own life.

Janet (Johnson) Lutz  
Class of 1965

'65

'00

Dear Class of 2020,

During these times we tend to lose sight of all that we've accomplished and only focus on what we haven't completed. Commencing from high school is a tremendous accomplishment, one each of you should be proud of! While there may not be a commencement ceremony, take pride in all that you have achieved to get you to the end of your high school careers. This unprecedented time is making you stronger than you were before! Pressure builds diamonds and each of you will be shining brilliantly like the diamonds you are!! Shine brilliantly and radiantly diamond class of 2020!!! Congratulations!!!!

Sincerely,

Ebony R. Stutson-Carson, MS LPC  
Class of 2000

Class of 2020,

Although the year did not end the way you would have liked, hold tight to the fond memories and friendships you've developed at Walnut. These memories and friendships will continue as you begin life at a university, employment, or the military. Being a graduate of Walnut Hills High School forever solidifies your lifetime membership into a network of support. Don't be afraid to lean on and take advantage of it. You are ready to soar and place your mark on the world. So chin up, rise up, and take flight. You can rest assured that you're prepared to succeed.

*Sursum Ad Summum* Fellow Eagles,

Erika (Moore) Harris  
Class of 1997

'97

Dear graduating Senior,

I know this isn't the kind of letter you were hoping to be getting right now. I know probably lots of people are saying things to you like "I know what you're going through" and you're thinking to yourself "how could that possibly be true"? I am reminded of myself feeling the exact same way when I graduated from high school in the summer of 2008: the calm before the Great Recession storm. I remember sitting in my room as the crisis unfolded, ultimately ripping through the local and world economy right as college started up, I was 18. Twelve years later, what is the world like? Well, I can't say that everything is back in a happy equilibrium. Some people from our graduating class forewent going to school to try to get any work they could to help their families, as many are doing now. Some of those people went back, but many others had their lives permanently changed. I am sure these are pains that will be universally shared in your generation as well as mine. What of this? Why do I mention it, call it out? We had our 10-year reunion around Thanksgiving 2018 and I was flushed with memories of so many people who I reconnected with, but only for a fleeting moment. In the months that followed, my Instagram and Facebook fluttered with friend requests going back and forth between old classmates reconnecting after the (admittedly) short time we all had been apart. What have I taken away from those conversations with my classmates and casual social media voyeurism into their lives? These people are happy. They are fulfilled both professionally and personally. They have families. They have gone through difficult times. They have had some good luck and some bad luck too.

What's the point of all this? They are doing okay. What could our counterfactual lives have been? We'll never know. But throughout all the success and tough times, we are in some ways content now. We work hard and live to live and fight another day. The work is sometimes and often is hard, but I believe you can do it.

Jonathan Robinson  
Class of 2008

PS. If this email contains typos I am sincerely sorry. Please use it as inspiration that you can still go far in life and be quite the below-average email composer.

'08

Dear 2020 Senior Class,

It is with a heavy heart that I write to you during this Global Pandemic that has cut short the climactic end to a glorious season in your life as a High School Senior at the greatest school in Ohio. Though it may feel like you have been cheated out of so many things to end your Walnut Hills experience, I urge you to reflect on all the good times and memories shared with fellow students & faculty over your educational career. The knowledge and wisdom that you have gained by attending Walnut Hills cannot be taken from you, so I am sure that you will "*Sursum Ad Summum*" in whatever life has in store for your future. Although we have no control of our past, we can look forward to our future, and because of your hard work & dedication to your success you have an established foundation to build on no matter what you choose as your future.

Being an Alumna of Walnut Hills will open so many doors and has prepared you for the rigors of life after school, so keep your heads held high and be the example to Seniors at other schools proving that nothing can derail you from achieving any goal your set your heart to.

I encourage you to use this time of transition to focus on how to make yourself a better student, co-worker, & neighbor to your community so that when life does return to normal you will be even more prepared to hit the ground running.

I am in my early 40's and can certainly say that my experience at Walnut Hills has benefited all aspects of my life & career in every way imaginable. There is a sense of pride and self-assurance that is ingrained in us by being an Alumna of Walnut Hills that gives us the confidence to know we are capable of so many great accomplishments. I pray that the Lord shine His face on you always and His favor be forever upon you!

God Bless,

Matthew Kuntz  
Class of 1995

'95

To the Magnificent Class of 2020

I know your class is magnificent because of my grandson, Andrew Goering, who happens to be a member of your special group. My wife and I have enjoyed witnessing the maturation and development of so many of you during the past few years; you have every reason and right to be proud. Someone once said, "To have potential is to suffer a great burden." When I graduated with the class of 1956 (Our group was also magnificent), I was not completely aware of just how valuable Walnut Hills High School had been to me in facing this burden. Like me, most of you will soon realize your good fortune when you see fellow university students flounder with projects that seem so much easier to you. Your college preparation has been the best and is unparalleled. While most traditional graduation activities with all the pomp and circumstance have been largely curtailed, you will, and should, have the fondest memories of your extraordinary school. Hold your heads high as you move forward, knowing that your tools for success have been properly sharpened. You have joined many thousands of appreciative Alumni who have earned the right and privilege to say, "I graduated from Walnut Hills High School."

*Sursum ad Summum*,

Myron Koenig  
Class of 1956

'56

Dear Class of 2020,

I'm sorry to hear that the final special events of your senior year may be postponed or canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

You've already tested positive for brilliance when you started at Walnut and, if the past is any indication of the future, you're well on your way to score even better for what comes next: your resilience.

Keep up the good work.

Yet please also keep in mind that the only attribute you lack today is the most important one: Perspective.

And while you may think you've already passed that course with flying colors, 'you ain't seen nuthin' yet.'

Because the only way you can learn to have and appreciate perspective is to earn it. And that, by its very nature, takes time, years of it, usually a lifetime. One life changing experience after another, over and over and over again. That includes the good, the bad and the ugly.

Perspective is about putting together everything you've been through so far and everything you'll continue to go through from today on, then ranking them all in terms of their significance in your life. In case you haven't already done so, now would be a good time to start thinking about perspective since you've still got way more tomorrows ahead of you than you have yesterdays.

Perspective turns knowledge into wisdom to influence your critical thinking about what has just happened to what's happened before and to whatever comes next, so when that happens, you'll be better prepared to deal with it.

Perspective always changes.

You'll never bat 1,000 on perspective, but .500 will definitely get you into any hall of fame. The rest is only noise.

In the grand scheme of things, those rituals you've missed can be reenacted and remembered even more vividly by their unexpected absence since they'll always be shared by everyone else in your class. That's what reunions are all about. And who knows, your first one could come as soon as next year.

Put everything you can into your own perspective. Look back on all you've already achieved. Look forward to how much more you'll achieve.

Be safe. Be well. Be grateful.

*Sursum Ad Summum*

Personal Perspectives:

- On Friday, November 22, 1963 I was a Walnut sophomore walking across The Circle after lunch when my transistor radio told me that President Kennedy had just been shot in Dallas.
- I was in Madison, Wisconsin on April 4 of 1968 and had the same feeling when Martin Luther King Jr. was gunned down.
- Ditto in Madison 2 months later when Bobby Kennedy was assassinated in L.A.
- Ditto decades later upon arriving at a hotel in Italy on 9/11 with my wife Ann (Class of '66) as the second World Trade Center came tumbling down.
- Yet before all of those events occurred, I'll never forget March 19th, 1956. I was 7, playing at home with my best friend, when two policemen knocked at our front door and told us my father had suddenly died of a heart attack while on a business trip.

Jerry Malsh  
Class of 1965

'65

Dear Walnut Hills Class of 2020,

I would be willing to bet that this is not how you pictured your time at Walnut coming to an end. You just went through 4 (maybe even 6) years of intense Walnut Hills classes all for your last semester to abruptly end. Unfortunately, now you do not get to have a senior skip day. You do not get to have your senior prom. And chances are, you won't get to walk down the long aisle at Cintas Center to grab your diploma from Mr. Chambers. You did, however, get the chance to attend the #1 high school in the state of Ohio. Some of you won state championships. Some of you were able to take English with Mrs. Miñano or Anatomy with Mrs. Brokamp. Some of you scored the glorious 36 on your ACT (I sure didn't but I'm still kicking). Some of you might have spent too much time in the front office and others not enough. You probably met some of your best friends. I know that I did. No matter how you spent your time there, I am certain that your diploma from Walnut Hills will open any door that you are bold enough to knock on.

In the next couple of weeks you will finish online classes, take exams and then receive your diploma. No matter how you receive it, whether it comes to you in the mail or to your inbox... embrace it and know that we are celebrating you. That diploma is something that no one will ever be able to take away from you. A diploma from Walnut is not something that is just handed out. You worked hard for that. You are about to receive a diploma in the middle of a pandemic. Can you imagine getting the chance to tell your children that one day?! I know that I would not have been able to do it. But you all did it. While I cannot begin to imagine what you are going through, I want to remind you all to not be afraid during this uncertain time. Remain strong and firm in your beliefs. You will get to do all of the things you have been dreaming of. You will go to your #1 school or go to the country you've been dreaming of. You will one day be in my position. Sitting at your kitchen table, five years after graduating from Walnut, one year after graduating from Ohio University and after a full day of work, writing a letter to the next group of Walnut grads to remind them that their future can be anything they want it to be. I believe that as graduates of Walnut Hills High School, you are able to do anything that you set your mind to.

Congratulations graduates and welcome to the club!

Sursum ad Summum,

Emma Kasperczyk  
Class of 2015

To the WHHS Class of 2020

I was in your shoes 74 years ago. One would think you would achieve wisdom in that time. Whether or not that's true you can decide in the year 2094.

With your required years of Latin you can develop good respect for the ability to handle the ideas and feelings of a good language.

After the years of torture mastering mathematics, you can learn to think clearly in a lineal way.

After years of imbibing history you can muster the strength to deal with human stupidities and with a more than equal amount of human understanding.

In every case you will be fortified by an excellent high school education. Here's wishing you genuine achievement together with the pleasures that can bring.

Irwin Weil  
Class of 1946

'46

'15

Dear Class of 2020,

Beware this business of sursum ad summum. When teachers implored us to "rise to the highest," I wish they had been more specific. Despite soaring, Latinate rhetoric, you can't be summum at everything, lest you become stuck on a hamster wheel, striving, never arriving.

Instead, do your reasonable best to practice a balanced life motivated by curiosity, beauty, engagement with others, and contribution to the common good. You're not going to get all of that in one day, might take a whole week.

When in the moment, the choice is between clever and kind, choose to be kind. You will never regret it. Hold to your own day of rest, wear clean underwear, and trust that alcohol isn't your friend.

You will learn, you will learn.

Loquaciously, sagaciously yours,

Milo F. Hanke  
Class of 1973

'73

Class of 2020,

Last week a teacher friend of mine argued: schools change more from events than through strategic planning. The Russian launch of Sputnik in 1959 led to transformations in the teaching of science and mathematics in US schools. In my high school and college days (late 60's / early 70's), war in Southeast Asia, Civil Rights protests, the feminist movement, and anti-poverty struggles changed who was admitted to college and what issues were covered in the news. In time, barriers to fundamental opportunities cracked open (expanding the right to vote, to be hired, to own property, to marry whomever you loved, to serve one's country in the Armed Forces, even to play sports at the most competitive levels).

Clearly, careful planning makes change more effective and lasting. But the animating drive to question institutional regularities and imagine new freedoms often arises from events taking place outside institutions.

So, turn your eyes forward. In this time of uncertainty and unease, it well could be the doors of opportunity are swinging open again in unexpected ways, making improvements possible that would have seemed implausible just weeks ago. Long-suppressed questions can be discussed more urgently now: about public health preparedness, about access to health care established as a universal right (not brokered through insurance tied to employment), about college affordability, and about income security during brutal economic downturns.

In Growing Up Absurd, Paul Goodman wrote that each generation has a chance to form its own distinctive values and code of conduct. I hope your class will pursue this vital work in college or the other settings you have chosen. In this sense, you are fortunate: you can prepare in your distinct way to seize the rare opportunity for change created by today's health crisis.

Sursum ad summum,

Ward Ghory  
WHHS Assistant Principal 1981-1988

THINGS I WOULD TELL MYSELF IF COVID-19 HAD BEEN COVID-86:

Congratulations for the last four years of work and growth. The culture of success for Walnut Hills graduates is not a mystery. It's part of you. You will always have that edge. It's why I have my closest and oldest friends. It's how I met my wife. It's how I got into college and law school. It is a life asset.

Your losses are definite but short-term so don't feel too bad. For me personally, the best memories of 1987 was the summer after graduation. I was leaving town for college in August so my friends and I had a two month goodbye celebration. Your best times as a class are ahead of you.

Perhaps be thankful. By avoiding the tradition of camping overnight on the back circle the day before graduation, you saved yourself a very long and hot stage appearance with little or no sleep. The graduation day parties were dead before they started.

The world of school and work may seem more competitive than it actually is at given moment. NEVER give up. You can always survive and recover. If you are not a good GPA maker, live for board exams or get a volunteer job in the area you want to study.

If you find a boss or teacher who believes in you, engage with him or her. If I had not made friends with Sharon Draper my in 1985-1986 Junior year ("Draper Paper"), I do not know how I could have succeeded in college and law school.

GOOD LUCK!

David A. Gonzalez  
Class of 1987

'87

Dear Seniors,

I was in class of '64, during the Vietnam conflict. Like yours today, my immediate future was stormy. Many of our class joined or were drafted into military service then Most survived. I want all of you to survive and thrive, too. It is far more important than the temporary, but upsetting loss of your graduation's 'pomp and circumstance.' You all have tomorrows to look forward to. So, think down the road rather than at today's limitations. If I look back 56 years - college, career, marriage, child, grands, life events, the upsets everyone has, health issues, losses, political crises or nuclear worries - I wonder why anything bothered me at age 18. Easy to say, but true. It's not to diminish anyone's hopes and dreams - college acceptance, major of choice, professors, roomie you'll like, summer jobs, careers, loving friends, partners. Watch anxiety or frustrations pass like clouds. Label it excitement.' Your futures begin soon. Enjoy! And remember WHHS' role helping you to achieve them.

Ira Goldberg  
Class of 1964

'64

My heart goes out to the Class of 2020.

Over the last three decades I have had the chance to interview high school students in the tri-state area going to college. I have always been impressed with their enthusiasm, curiosity and intellect. There will be transition from my generation to yours. I will not worry about it for what I have seen your generation will be capable enough to handle the transition.

The corona virus has put a damper on the normal things when you graduate from high school, for example proms. I ask that you remember what is important. You still have each other. Looking back there are many friends that I don't have who went to my prom. With the corona virus I hope that this is something that you do not see in your immediate future.

Considering past catastrophes, the economic downturn of 2008 would make a good one. Many students who graduated from college that year did not get jobs. The economy got better in the next few years but many of them were never hired. Their only mistake was bad timing. For them, it was an opportunity denied. For you, however, the problems are ahead of you. We will figure a way out of this. I hope for you that it is an opportunity delayed not denied.

I am sure you have questions I have no answers for. I am sure you have concerns I have no responses for. Sometimes the only thing we have in tough times is each other. I hope and pray we have the decency to listen to each other.

Yours sincerely,

Reginald Doddy  
Class of 1970

'70

Class of 2020.

Congratulations on a tremendous accomplishment - graduating from Walnut Hills. I know this year has been difficult. The Covid 19 Virus has taken so much from you - school, sports, freedom. The one thing that it cannot take from you is the wonderful memories that you have made at Walnut Hills.

The laughter with friends made at Walnut, the all-night study sessions, the back breaking homework, and of course getting those college acceptance letters. These are the memories that you will cherish the most. Twenty years from now the stories will be, "Remember that time we.....," or "this one time I had a class with....." And those stories always end up with a smile.

The Walnut Hills experience is something few can understand. Six years of the toughest, most difficult education in the country that only the best and brightest can survive. You are now part of a unique family that has been forged by a crucible of excellence. You are a Walnut Hills High School graduate. Wear that badge with honor.

Now more than ever you have the opportunity to live our motto. Now more than ever you have the chance to rise to the highest. Live your life, go out and be great. Make 125 years of WHHS Alumni proud but most importantly, make yourself proud of you.

Best of luck in college and life.

Brandon W. Flickner  
Class of 1991

'91

The present seems frightening because vision of the months ahead is blocked by clouds of viral and political uncertainty. Your challenge is to navigate through that mist. But, because you are Walnut Hills High School students, you are particularly well-suited to meet this challenge.

Most important, where you will be in 20+ years will not be determined by what happens during the corona pandemic!

Look at what the Olympic athletes are doing to maintain their physical condition while they prepare for the Olympic Games that have been delayed a year. They are practicing and exercising vigorously but keeping their social distances. Professional athletes always maintain conditioning in the off-season and study plays and strategy. It is no different being a student.

At Walnut Hills you learned the rigors of studying and you learned the importance of pursuing academic excellence. Although the governor of Ohio ordered the closing of schools, he did not order the closing of your minds. You have the ability and the drive to read and study and maintain the intellectual conditioning that will be needed when this pandemic ends and you return to classrooms.

The essential keys to success, whether in academics, business, or athletics, are to set goals and have plans how to reach those goals. You should have a goal for where you expect to be by the end of next year, next month, next week, and, just as important, you need a goal for tomorrow. You should have a plan how to reach each of those goals and you should review tomorrow's goals before you go to bed.

The goal for next year does not need to be accurate. Columbus was not a failure because he did not reach the orient, his intended goal. But in subsequent journeys he adjusted his goals to take advantage of the new world he discovered.

You need not know how you will end up. You can alter your strategy and direction to take advantage of the changing winds of opportunity and desire. But you must continue to sail forward toward your goals, and you must do your best.

Congratulations!

We all have faith that you will rise to the highest.

Stewart B. Dunsker, MD  
Class of 1952

'52

Life at Walnut has taught us that we can be anyone in life and we can do anything. And we can overcome any adversity. Sursum ad summum!

LaTaunya Speed McGrew  
Class of 1970

'70

2020 Seniors

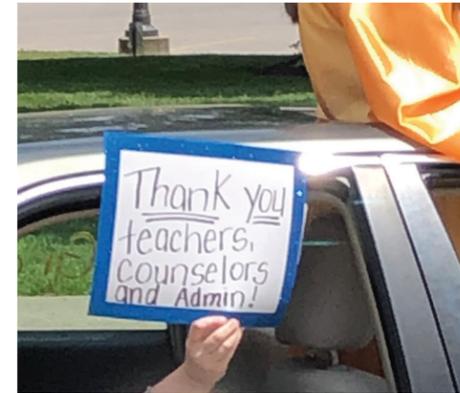
Congratulations and welcome to the Fraternity of those who can claim to be a graduate of Walnut Hills High School. That accomplishment will carry weight in many places in which you least expect it as you continue your path forward through college and beyond. It will appear out of nowhere in social networking, professional networking, graduate school or employment interviews and in every instance it is a feather in your cap and it sets contacts, educators and employers at ease. You have earned this title through commitment, hard work and even more so in your class' case, through perseverance.

As you have come to see the last few months, life doesn't always go as planned. Fairness is not an inventory that is kept track of nor is it recorded on any scoreboard. Many times there is no one thing or person to blame and to be successful in life you must embrace and project perseverance. No one would ever imagine that many highlights of your senior year would not occur but the joy of your accomplishment cannot be diminished. Joy is a personal emotion that you control and your perseverance allows you to emote. No one, no event, no circumstance can take that from you. The missed events that you planned and rightfully deserve to participate in as classes of Eagles before you have will leave a lasting sting but they do not define you and you cannot let them do so. Use your perseverance and the sting you may be feeling as fuel for the next stages of your life. As you continue on and achieve new heights you will look back on these times as markers that allow you to more fully appreciate and accept the joy you should feel as a graduate of Walnut Hills High School.

I wish you courage, strength and perseverance.....SURSUM AD SUMMUM 2020

Nick Goodwin  
Class of 1994

'94



Cincinnati when I graduated in 1990 was pretty great. The Reds won the world series, the Bengals had been in the Super Bowl. Ken Griffey Jr. really just a local legend at that point (Pete Rose Jr. was more famous!). That was, of course, 30 years ago. And I should note that it has been even longer (111 years) since Cincinnati produced a U.S. President.

But here's the truth: I am completely amazed by my classmates and what they have all done with their lives in this time. So many doctors, lawyers, teachers, accountants. Mentors and community leaders. Artists and musicians. As far as I know, no one ended up becoming actuary, but it wouldn't surprise me! All solid citizens. Graduating from Walnut provided us with the skills we needed to survive economic downturns, 9/11, hurricanes, reality television, collateralized debt obligations (remember those?), grunge music, Bernie Madoff. No doubt we all experienced the heebie jeebies on occasion, and we don't have the answer for global warming yet, but, who knows? Stay tuned!

Bottom line: Lots of crazy stuff happens, and, at the same time there is plenty of joy in life. Have as much fun as you can. Play as much music, sports and games as you can. Even video games (I hear they've improved in quality somewhat since Frogger). In between all the greater world's madness, you can easily build a wonderful life in your own little universe.

Charlie Morriss  
Class of 1990

'90



YOU ARE A WALNUT HILLS HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE.

WEAR THAT BADGE WITH HONOR.

Edward James Abernathy Jr. | Victor Gustavo Abitabilo | Abdullah AbuDakhan | Joan Elizabeth Acio-Alele | Megan Margaret Adam | Molly Louise Adam | Suvan Adhikari | Dorn | Jenna Elizabeth Barkman | Anna Louise Barlow | Samuel Jan Bartos | Anson Lee Battoclette | Gerald Robert Beerck | Griffin Milo Behnfeldt | Lucy Kathryn Berlage | E Ahvay Bonner | Amaya Danielle Boyd | Jamar Ebon Brady | Shadez Letaya Brandon | Bailey Mae Brant | Noah Joseph Braun | Damien James Breen-Holley | Clare Anne Bren Wallace Brown | Justin William Brown | Gabrielle Eleze Brown-Strahorn | Hannah Rae Brubacher | Seth Joseph Brunner | Henry Parker Burchett | Darian Sha'rae Burgin | Ch Grace Capannari | Amanda Marjorie Carden | Anna Bruce Carli | Logan Thomas Haven Carns | William Ashambe Carr | Kristen Marie Cathey | Gabriella Noelle Chatman | R | Heather Grace Cochran | Domuniqu Olajowaun Cody | Jett Edward Coleman | Julian Alan Coley | Morgan Paige Cook | Kendal Lynchelle Cooke | Miles Aman Cooper | K Ariana Carol-Lynn Lashay Craddolph | Cole Logan Cummins | Nicole Gabrielle Curley | Aleksandra Julia Cyranek | Elijah Mariner Dage | Daquan Nyshawn Daniels | Sean Ke Fatimatou Diallo | Alexis Jevonne Elizabet Dicks | Reeya Manish Dighe | Caroline Rose Dillard | Leah Ainslie Dillon | Amiri Ngozi Diop-West Jr. | Anwar Monukay Lleweliz Di Marie Dull | Julia Grace Blacklidge Dunn | John Francis Early | Madeline Grace Edie | Matthew Edward Eggers | Zachery Steven Eisentrout | Madeline Elizabeth Elkins | Nad Wolfgang Eschenlohr | Kathryn Emerson Evans | Ky'Shawn De'Andre Evans | Luke Trujillo Faherty | Salma Mareme Fall | Anna Chen Fan | Peter John Featherston | Tae'auna T | Samuel Coleman Frank | Megan Elsie Franke | Jasmine Deasa Frost | Bridget McKenna Fuller | Grace Kelly Fulton | Ryan Jeffrey Gambrel | Olivia Rose Garr | Emmanuel Ge Goering | Gregg Matthew Gordon | Magdalene Elizabeth Gossard | Katherine Elizabeth Graeter | Caleb Isaiah Grant | Michael Edmon Grant | Allyson Faith Graves | Lydia G Robert Hagerty | Sarah Haile | Lydia Louise Hall | Jaila Allis Hamilton | Jonah Vadim Hanrahan | Alivia Evonne Harris | Makaria Chenelle Harris | Tre Lamont Harris | Andrew Heikenfeld | Henry Kele Heist | Jayla Angel Hendrix | Mary Catherine Henning | Emma Catherine Hensley | Benjamin Josef Hermes | Jose Arturo Hernandez Valenzuela | Lu Benjamin Gary Holm-Bertelsen | Brianna Sharon Jade Hoover | Sabina Julian Hordinski | Aidan Scott Horstmeier | Caroline Lee Horvath | Colin Joseph Howard | Owen Geo Andrenique Hummons | Zakiya Ashanti Humphries | Andrew Michael Hust | William James Igoe | She'miah Teresa Ann Irvin | Chloe Marie-Noelle Jackson | Kayla Renee' Ja Anita Rene' Jerdo | Nausiyah Measia Jetter Allen | Mercy Mumbua John | Alonna Denise Johnson | December Carol Johnson | Rikki Lee Santana Joiner | Amanda Lynne Jo Erin Keller | Holden Alexander Kelley | Jenna Rose Kiely | Isaac Jeong Joon Kim | Micah Jamir Kimble | Augustus Otto Bergquist Kindel | Sydney Patrice Kitchen | Nawame Leigh Krumins | Luke Patrick Kuchera | Gavin Ferguson Kursman | Lundyn Jah'riq Lane | Maia Nicole Lanier | Jackson Boyd Lark | Keililah Camille Larkin | Bryisha Nicole Lat Lintz | Logan Michael Lintz | Sarah Heavenly Little | Madison Amaiya Lockett | Morgan Denise Lockett | Anthony Tyrone Jessie Long | Nathan Marshall Long | Adam Patrick | Tylliah Jamy Rene' Marshall | Ava Diane Martin | London Kordai Lamar Martin | Tumelo Clay Martin-Weiler | Louis Petes Martini | Emma Maria Martyniuk | Jackson Paul M Brown Meiners | Mesgana Mekibib | Matthew Carlos Menendez-Aponte | Naima Christiaan Miller | Julia Cornell Mitchell | Julian DeMarco Mitchell | Vincenzo Tomas Mon Murphy | Kennedy Reece Nadermann | Christina Jihee Nam | Abigail Constance Neurohr | Avery Annaliese Newman | Ravi Vinod Newman | Mariam Renee Niangane | Pete Marie O'Donnell | Yocheved Chigozie Ocho | Maya Grace Oerther | Rian Marie Oglesby | Maxwell Joseph Olberding | Ana Jimena Ortega Carreon | David Prescott Osterbr Grace Eleanor Pepiton | Evan James Peters | LeVar Allen Pharris Jr. | Gabrielle Lee Phillips | Helen Grace Pickering | Dejah Simone Pickett | Mohit Kumar Pinninti | Caleb Wi Clarence Tiberius Remotigue | William John Rentz-McCoy | Brianna Renee Reynolds | William Ugochukwu Glenn Reynolds-Uti | Colin Frederick Riggins | Timothy Joseph Ri Piper Anne Sauerbrunn | Evan James Conlon Saxton | Sebastian William Thomas Schemmel | Charles James Schenk | Andrea Noelle Scheper | Peter James Schlueter | Eric Andrew Schureck | Abigail Frances Schwartz | James-Daniel Raider Scott | Luke Antonio Scretchen | McKenzie Davis Scudder | Jamison Tyler Sedgwick | Aaron Michael Se Bernard Simon | Saulomon Malik Simpson | Maya Nicole Sivakumaran | Dontasia Arieyonna Slater | Samuel Alan Smallwood | Camryn Michelle Smith | Ellen Margaret Smith Jaylee Ann Sowders | Marcell Samuel Speed | Samuel Kobe Spicer | Jackson Clay Spieser | Madeleine Mae Katie Stafford | Noah Benjamin Stafford | Jerien Amir Stallings | Colin McDonald Stewart | Max Dushan Stojanovic | Sophia Marie Sturgeon | Katherine Diana Sutkamp | Sidney Rae Switzer | David Watts Taffe | Brady Allen Tagge | Ana El Leandre Thomas | Darren Thomas-Dixon | Logan James Thrower | Olivia Alison Tombragel | Aaron Ewalt Tossey | Anijah Jichelle Triggs | Collin Jack Trissel | Rosa Tsurov | Jakob Frank Vilinsky | Anabel Elena Villanueva | Julia Ryan Vincent | Oliver Herrick Vockell | Samuel James Vogel | Jeffrey Steven Vonderschmidt Jr. | Avery Bess Vota | Zoe Jackson Pierce Ward | Nevaeh Anyla Ward | Sarina Lanae Ware | Angelica Crista Warner | Audrey Marie Warren | McKenna Ann Warvel | Alexa Ray Webster | Taylor Alexis Brian Matthew Williams Jr. | Chloe Lyn Williams | Deonta Marquis Williams | Garry Allen Williams Jr. | Jakeem Alonzo Wilmont | Sierra Lynn Windsor | Keshon Jerrod Wood Selaya Maureen Young | Nicholas John Zannis | Robert Emerson Xu Zavon | Alan George Zhang | Ava Marie Zimmer