

SADIYA QUETTI GOODSON

Good afternoon Generals and family. Here we are. June 6th at the graduation ceremony of the class of 2021. This is the last time we sit together as the seniors of Pittsfield High School. We have reflected on the accomplishments of the past, we have discussed the adversity we have overcome to reach this present moment, and now it's time to look forward to the future.

These past four years have flashed by and I similar to you, am trying to find where the time went. Last week during our senior send off, I couldn't even begin to try to process the fact that I will never step into this building to take another class, or play another song of the day on the announcements or have another field day. I couldn't even try to find a response to, "what next?"

And that's the big question that we are facing right now, right? What is next for us? Will we go to school for a few more years? Will we leave for work? Will we explore the world? The thing is, class of 2021, there are endless possibilities for us right now. This may seem challenging and confusing or daunting and overwhelming but there is beauty in the madness. I have faith that each and everyone of us will end up where we are meant to be.

We can agree and recognize the world is a little broken right now. However, you have the potential and ability to reshape, rebuild, and change it

for the better because that's what generals do. You may be graduating today but once a general, always a General and generals are leaders. You are the innovators and creators of the future and right now you are free to do what you want to do. So do what makes you happy. Do what you can to improve the world. Live the life that you want to live, how you want to live it.

I additionally believe it is of the utmost importance to clarify and remind everyone that no one measures your success except yourself. In this next chapter in your life, do not limit yourself to what others think you are capable of. So challenge yourself, don't take no for an answer, and don't let others determine or dictate your success. Remember what you have overcome to get to this moment today and be proud of yourselves. You are the Pittsfield high generals; class of 2021, graduating during a pandemic (pon de play, panoramic)! You are powerful, intelligent, beautiful, phenomenal human beings and I am honored to be your peer.

I am so proud of everyone here today. As we embark on different journeys in this life, I hope we cross paths once again. And if we don't, I know I will see you on magazines, billboards, the NBA, Broadway, and the White House (I'm talking about you Erin Curran). I cannot tell you what the future holds. Truth be told I have no idea if tomorrow we'll be introduced to aliens or learn how to time travel. What I do know is no matter what you're prepared

for the future. Know that the world is yours. And you will always have your Pittsfield high family to lean back on. I love y'all so proud of yall.

Congratulations! WE DID IT!

And I'd just like to take a moment to recognize Mrs. Tierney is our class advisor but she is so much more. She is one of the hearts of PHS and we wouldn't be here without her. On behalf of the class of 2021 thank you for everything Mrs. Tierney.