

De'Lisia Adorno

Good evening everyone. Before I go on, I want to thank everyone for coming to celebrate the class of 2021, as this is an important day for us seniors. As Ryan had mentioned, we are a class full of accomplishments, but with those accomplishments came challenges that we had to face and overcome. Not only did we face the normal challenges of being a senior, such as deciding whether or not we're attending college, university, trade school, enlisting into the army, or taking a gap year, but we also had to face challenges that COVID-19 placed on our shoulders through adapting and changing our last year. Our junior year was cut in half. It's almost nostalgic to think of the first wave of quarantine. We were ecstatic that school was going to be closed for two weeks. School was 'optional' where no one knew what Zoom was, learning how to use Google Meet for those who didn't see school as 'optional', and our weeks consisted of doing Chloe Ting workouts and making whipped coffee. Well, those two weeks quickly turned to fourteen months. Chloe Ting workouts and making whipped coffee got old pretty quick. By the time September came along, no one was ecstatic anymore. If anything, we felt like

our last year was going to be nonexistent. No sports games, no musicals or plays, no homecomings, no pep rallies, no prom, no senior send off, no graduation. Fortunately, our senior year was existent and unique. We spent 90% of our time adapting to new schedule changes, figuring out how to share screens on Zoom, how to do gym through remote learning, and how to upload assignments on Canvas. Though remote learning was out of our ordinary, we had the opportunity to become more close knit than before. We would bring and introduce our pets to class, introduce our siblings, and tell each other what we had for lunch. The other 10% of our time was spent under the dome. Senior athletes had the opportunity to play for their last year. Seniors in theatre performed Into the Woods as their last performance at PHS. We had our senior send off and sunrise, our prom, and our graduation. We couldn't be more thankful for that. With our senior year ending on a good note, I want to thank our teachers, administration, and fellow classmates for making our last year one to remember. Despite the fact that COVID had overstayed its welcome, we appreciate our staff on how smooth and accommodating this year was. We know that uploading assignments on

Canvas was not easy. We know that keeping our cameras off when they were supposed to be on was a bit depressing. However, the endless amount of time, support, and care present did not and still does not go unnoticed. I think our unity has made this journey worth the ride, and with this unity that we had to recreate, we experienced a unique senior year rich with meaning and appreciation. Lastly, I want to thank my fellow classmates for keeping afloat and having patience during all of this. I know this year was not what we expected 13 years ago, but we still made our mark here under the dome and will continue to make our mark in the paths we choose. Thank you all again for coming to celebrate and congratulate the class of 2021.

Members of the chorus, please join me onstage.  
Please welcome PHS Chorus, singing High Hopes  
by Panic!At the Disco!