

Redefining Failure

Well, I guess the pressure is on now that bragging rights are on the line.

I would like to start by thanking the staff for all your support through our high school career. Also, thank you to all who came here tonight to support and celebrate the Class of 2025.

Henry Ford once said, “Failure is simply the opportunity to begin again, this time more intelligently”. Why am I sharing this quote with you? I chose this quote because high school graduates are at a heightened risk of experiencing a fear of failure.

A national online survey found that 75% of high school graduates “do not feel prepared to make college or career decisions after high school graduation”

Unfortunately, no matter how hard we try, we will fail at some point. To combat this fear of failure let’s remember that we have experienced failure countless times. Failure is simply part of life.

However failure has helped us to become the graduates we are today. It

has proved to be a gateway for improvement, allowing us to learn the skills we will need to succeed in the challenges we face moving forward. It has taught us to persist and persevere against obstacles and showed us that we were not defined by our mistakes but by how we grew from them.

As we begin a new phase of our lives, we will follow different paths. Some will remain local, while others travel. We will experience new things, meet new people, and face new obstacles and challenges. Sadly, while we are excited to experience the next chapter of our lives, moving on is scary. The familiar questions of doubt and concerns of failure will return. We may once again ask “What if I don’t make it?” “What if I’m not good enough” “What if I fail?”

When these doubts whisper to us let’s remember that the real questions we should ask are: “Why wouldn’t I succeed?” “Why do I worry about failing when I have already failed but still made it this far?”

I mean, we all made it through tenth grade biology. Talk about a fear of failure. But in all seriousness, embracing failure is difficult,

daunting and scary. It's not something we will be able to do overnight. It is going to take hard work and dedication to change our mindsets to look at failure as an opportunity rather than a hardship. In those moments when doubt and the fear of failure arise, just remember the wise words of Rocky Balboa, "You, me, or nobody is going to hit as hard as life. But it ain't about how hard you hit. It's about how hard you can get hit and keep moving forward. How much you can take and keep moving forward. That's how winning is done."

Thank you.