

Dear Graduates of 2002,

"The kaleidoscope has been shaken. The pieces of the map are strewn across the face of a new civilization." So stated the Prime Minister of Great Britain, Tony Blair, just days after the Twin Tower attack on that fateful day 9-11.

You have been witnesses to one of the most shattering days in the history of this nation. Thousands of lives were lost, and millions cried out in anguish and heartbreak. You have also been witness to an America as great as our forefathers had divined. While our country rallied around an embattled city, our school came together united as patriots to do whatever we could to lift the pain and suffering of New Yorkers. Your voices rose in song at commemorative concerts, you raised funds for the victims of terrorism, and you talked through the night about the unimaginable images that swept across television screens daily.

As you leave us, this graduating class enters a world that will continually test its capacity to contribute. It has been our mission to prepare Stapleites for their civic and social responsibilities as well as the intellectual challenges ahead. Your four years here have provided you with rehearsal space to passionately engage in academic discussions and activities that broaden your personal outlook on an unfathomable world.

Never more has knowledge of diverse cultures and people been so important. Never more has tolerance for difference been key in our relationships at home and work. To be part of a loyal and true citizenry, you will be called upon to defend and participate in our often criticized democracy. It is my fondest wish that you use the individual strengths that you have developed here to further your own happiness and to guide your way to safe haven always.

Congratulations Class of 2002.

Sincerely,
Gloria Rakovic

Gloria Rakovic, Ed.D.
Principal

