

Nick Fluty 2020

You're all too kind, but please hold your applause until the end of my prerecorded message. Thank you to my classmates and the administration for allowing me the opportunity to speak today. Wow! What a year! If you had told me last fall that I'd be giving the Commencement speech, I wouldn't have believed you. But if you had told me that I'd be giving the Commencement speech, in Utah, in August, 2,000 miles away from Deerfield, I would've thought you were crazy. And yet here I am! Here we are! Dr. Austin, this must have been the first year at DA you always dreamed of! In all seriousness, though, I would like to thank you and the entire faculty and staff for working tirelessly during these challenging times. It has been greatly appreciated. To my fellow classmates, I miss you, and I know you miss me, too. Not a day goes by that I don't wish for one more sit-down meal to eat with you, one more mindful moment to meditate with you, or one more Maggie Lindemann concert to enjoy with you. If there's one thing we can learn from these past months, it's to never take anything for granted. Saying hello to someone on the path. Studying in the library with friends. Hanging out in the Greer. All of these happen so often at Deerfield that we only start to appreciate them when they're gone. I would give an arm and a leg to first-wait just one more sit-down table. It would be very difficult, of course, considering how I only have an arm and a leg now. I probably couldn't unfold the tablecloth and I'd need some help holding the tray, but I'd be happy to do it again. I appreciate these little moments at Deerfield a lot more now, but what I think about and cherish the most are all the memories I made with you, the Class of 2020. Building a raft at Camp Becket, watching the Performing Arts showcase, burning the C at the bonfire, swing dancing at Semi, running down to the River during the step-up dance, storming the field after Varsity Football beat Choate, scoring in front of hundreds of fans during the Rec hockey game against JV Girls, and hiking to the Rock freshman year with the Doubleday II boys, who are all, by the way, graduating today. Nice job, fellas, we made it. I've gone through all of this with you, and I am so glad we spent our high school years together. Class of 2020, you are the reason I love Deerfield so much, and for that, I am eternally grateful. I hope that each of you are able to look back fondly on your days of glory. As you move on to the next chapter of your life, I urge you to seize opportunities that present themselves. What these last few months have taught us is that the future is unpredictable, so don't be afraid to take a risk, because you might not have another chance. Nike once said, "Just Do It." and today, no words are more fitting. Find your passion, follow your dreams, and always remember to finish up strong. Class of 2020, congratulations!