



**2017 Albany High School Graduation
Speech by Acting Principal Dale Getto
June 25, 2017**

Falcons, you have been remarkable in your ability to stand together in your accomplishments and together, along with the support of the people here today, you have brought us to the floor of the Times Union Center!

You turned a page in the great history book of Albany High School, you – the 147th graduating class. Today is the greatest day to be a Falcon. You did it, Class of 2017.

Look around. Take a moment to remember your journey, the path that you took to get here-

As principal, I have the privilege of seeing everyone else's speeches and I know they will be recapping the specific highlights of this class as well as, the year in review. So, let's look at how you chose to say goodbye. It seems as if you threw it back, old school style:

You played outside at recess in your early elementary years and about a month ago, some of you begged me for a field day and from that, Senior Swim was born. A ritual that will go on for years to come! You learned to play instruments around fourth grade. I think some of you woke up on the last day of school and just wanted to play jazz and to that end, you greeted us at the scan desk and throughout the day in the courtyard! You finger-painted in kindergarten and again during your senior year when you chose to lease Albany High School on Craig's List!

You changed the culture at Albany High School because you all came together and chose to be "KIDS." Thank you.

And remember, you will always be able to count on each other as you go forward –all you need to do is call 1-800-20-17 and that's facts!