



**2017 Albany High School Graduation**  
**Speech by Board of Education President Sue Adler**  
**June 25, 2017**

It's an honor to be here today, speaking on behalf of the Board of Education. We share with all of you the excitement of our graduating seniors, the tremendous pride of all the families and friends, and the deep satisfaction of the entire school district staff.

When I sat down to write my speech, I asked myself how do we, as a Board of Education, measure whether we were successful in educating all of you ... in helping you become good citizens ... good people.

And, as you begin to live your adult lives, how will you measure your success?  
To be sure, state and federal mandates require that we test you ... A LOT.

But if you only learned Common Core lessons and not life lessons, we will have failed you and we will have failed the world that needs your help.

Life lessons are not measured by a Regents score, a chapter quiz, or an AP exam.

They're measured in the moments in between the assessments ... before the bell rings and after school ... in the locker room and in the music wing ... on the field and on the stage – the “extracurriculars” that help make you a complete person ... a good person.

Years from now, it's these moments ... these shared experiences – not your Elementary Algebra grade – that you'll remember:

- A winning football season
- A new athletic field on campus
- Flooding in the stair towers and the music wing
- Ceilings falling down
- A Cinderella season for our boys' basketball team ... and two trips to this very arena for our girls' basketball team
- Lockdowns
- Hall sweeps
- Critters running in the auditorium
- Blood drives
- Spa Day
- The AP Environmental Science water fundraiser
- Trying to rent out the school on Craigslist

- Cheering in the Falcons Nest ... in good weather or bad ... indoors or outdoors ... home or away.
- Being part of a community.
- Connecting with others.
- Caring for others.

Community ... Connecting ... Caring.

This is how we should measure our success in educating you. And it's how I hope you measure your success.

By becoming an active member of whatever community you are in ... by connecting with other people ... acknowledging them ... seeking to understand them even if they seem different than you ... by caring for others and doing good.

By being good.

The capacity to do that doesn't rely on mathematical skill, scientific inquiry, or historical analysis. It's far simpler.

And yet, somehow ... sometimes ... far more difficult.

But these are the lasting values. Values as old as time.

Values written in ancient Jewish text:

- Love your neighbor as yourself. This is the entire Torah (Bible), the rest is just commentary.

Islam teaches:

- There is reward for kindness to every living thing.

And Christianity tells us:

- Be devoted to one another in brotherly love.

Even the greatest math and science mind of the last century, Albert Einstein, measured his success by altruism:

- "Only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile," he said.

So, members of the Class of 2017, how will you measure your time at Albany High?

Five hundred twenty-five thousand six hundred minutes ... times four.

How do you measure, measure four years?

- Let's celebrate.

- Remember four years in the life of friends.
- Remember the love.
- Measure your life in love ... seasons of love.

Or, as Queen Bee puts it:

I just want them to know  
That I gave my all, did my best  
Brought someone some happiness  
Left this world a little better just because ... I was here.

Graduates, do good ... BE good ... make this world a little better and measure your success in love.