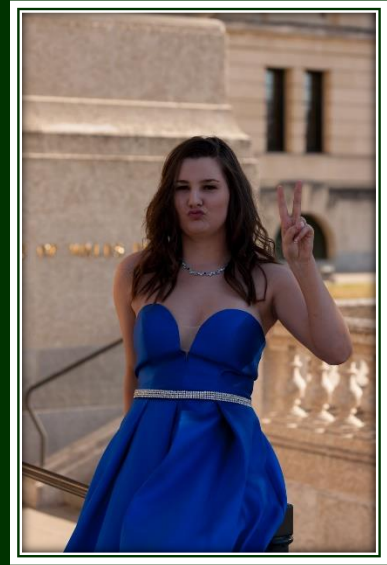


# Graduation Speeches 2020



## Address to the Gentlemen - Jenna Ramsay

Well boys, here we are, we made it. All I can really say is - what a year. But let's not talk about the crazy year we've had, instead let's talk about you guys for a hot second. I'm going to boost everyone's ego for a minute... even though none of you really need it. Let's start off with how you boys are truly great, and these last 4 years with you have been like no other. Now, I know that every toast to the boys says that, but us girls really truly believe that this group of boys is a phenomenal group, and there is no one else we would rather be "graduating" with.



Boys, you have been hilarious. We will laugh looking back on the jokes that you made from the far side of the classroom, even if it was just a little annoying at times. We will also miss your guys' willingness to help out around the school when you were voluntold, including whenever a teacher asked someone to return laptop carts.

I had the pleasure of spending everyday after school with a large group of you during football season, and getting to know some of you even better during basketball season. Throughout those many, many days, I grew to appreciate you more when you were working hard at dunking, creating your touchdown handshakes, or always being the loudest in the stands. You've also constantly made me laugh when you did not do such cool things. Such as getting a foul for just being large, or hitting me square in the head with a football during a game, and then asking why I didn't catch it.

All in all, on behalf of us girls, thank you. Thank you for causing the laughs, the gossip, my concussion, and probably some tears. Most importantly, thank you boys for helping make the memories that will bind us together forever. And thank you for making these last 4...well kind of more like 3 ½ years (Thanks Covid!), the best years anyone could ask for.

## Address to the Ladies - Jaxon Runge

Alright fifth attempt, this is it. This is the speech to hopefully make every girl in our graduating class happy...but also secretly make every girl like me more. Understanding girls is really hard. From watching movies and listening to other generations, it kind of seems like teenage girls have gotten harder and harder to comprehend. You may ask, "Why is that Jaxon?" I reply with: "Tik Tok". I will never understand why throwing your arms around and moving your hips in front of a camera became one of the biggest social media platforms of the century. Tik Tok has gotten so huge that I bet the girls would be taking more grad Tik Toks, than grad photos. At least I don't have to listen to all the Tik Tok song requests at prom. I was excited though. I was excited to see all the women in their grad dresses looking absolutely beautiful and that applies to EVERY one of you reading this. I was excited to look back at my grade eight graduation and see just how much we have all changed.

Most of all, I was excited to spend one last time as a high school student with my one and only, Kate Foster. Kate is truly one of my best friends who I would trust anything with. I'm sure almost every one of us have a Kate Foster of their own. A girl who makes you feel loved and supported one hundred percent of the time you are with them. Not a girlfriend, but a friend who happens to be of the opposite sex. One you can confide in with any of your problems, because talking to the boys just doesn't do it for you sometimes. If you are a Kate Foster to someone, know that you are so important to the mental well being of them and they appreciate you. If you aren't a Kate Foster to anyone, that's probably just because you weren't annoying enough. That brings me to the girlfriends. Whether those relationships lasted or not, us boys will always appreciate our time with you.

The women in the class of 2020 are a very special group of ladies who I will always remember and describe as confident, capable, intelligent, and beautiful inside and out.

## Address to the Parents - Hayley Veresh

Every single senior year comes with challenges that no student should have to face alone. This includes making sure you have enough credits, applying for scholarships, and preparing yourself for the many challenges that await you outside of Campbell's welcoming walls. This year, however, turned out to be a lot more of a struggle for the Campbell graduates of 2020, with brand new hurdles to jump. The news of COVID-19 spreading throughout the world, and making its way far too close to home, brought the graduating class of 2020's senior year to an abrupt halt. Classes were indefinitely suspended, graduation was postponed, and eventually cancelled as a whole. This left a gaping hole in the hearts of many, as these moments are what every student looks forward to when wrapping up their high school careers. Impossible as it seemed, a gigantic thank you must go out to the people who were always there, ready to jump over the hurdles alongside us - our families.

On our final day of high school, we walked into the building not knowing it was for the last time. We never said proper goodbyes to our teachers, or our closest friends. The news of the upcoming quarantine was sudden and unexpected. Most believed that we would be back in school in no time. I personally remember going home with an uneasy feeling of not knowing what was to come. The first person I spoke with when I arrived home from what would become my final day of high school, was my dad. I had spent the day stressing out and feeling anxious of the unknown times to come, and with a hug and a smile I felt those worries fade. My dad walked me through the positives of the situation, and what I could do to continue my school work and stay in touch with everyone. I felt supported and understood, and I am grateful to have had someone who was there to ease the uncertain feelings.



Missing out on these special moments in the final months of our senior year is heart wrenching. However, I do not think that should shadow the appreciation we all have for our families from freshman to senior year. To every parent or family member that held our hand from that first day of kindergarten, to the last day of high school, we thank you. You've been with us from the start, driving us to the big game, chaperoning our school trips, and helping us cram for the biggest final. Without your help from the beginning to the end, the struggles of high school would have been impossible for us to tackle.

This year has brought on many challenges we would be horrified to face alone. Your love and support is more touching than ever and we thank you for helping us to find the positive in such an uncertain situation, even when it's through a screen. The graduating class of 2020 give thanks to our families for all that you do. We love and appreciate you.

## Response to the Class of 2020 - Clayton Veresh

We are extremely proud of each of you as you graduate and begin your journey to finding your passion and pursuing your dreams. It seems like yesterday that the year was 2002 and we were welcoming each of you into our lives. With the blink of an eye, the numbers get jumbled and we find ourselves in 2020 celebrating your accomplishments. Time goes by so quickly and it is really hard for us to let you go.

Graduation is a very important milestone and provides an opportunity for you to celebrate your past accomplishments, while planning for your future. You now have the freedom and ability to make the choices to pursue the opportunities that lie before you. Be proud of who you have become and all that you have achieved. As your parents, we know you are talented and ready to take the next step.

Covid-19 has transformed our world and while your graduating year moved online, your family and friends remained strong and ready to support you. My four daughters have attempted several times to captivate me with Harry Potter movies. Sadly, the moment that magical theme song begins to play...I find myself falling asleep. That said, there is a relevant Harry Potter quote that I find fitting, *"But you know, happiness can be found in the darkest of times, if only one remembers to turn on the light."* Graduating Class of 2020, remember to keep the lights on and always focus on the positive.

The pandemic we find ourselves in has made each of you resilient and through this journey, each of you will be stronger. As your parents, we are very proud of your accomplishments as athletes, musicians, drama students, choir members and Campbell Tartans. A special thank you to each of your teachers who have joined us in helping to shape who you have become. Many of you will celebrate with your close family members or perhaps have a gathering later in the year. While you may not get to walk across a stage as part of a ceremony, you should know that you are being celebrated.

We can't wait to see what you will accomplish in the next twenty years. Congratulations Graduating Class of 2020! We are very proud of each of you.

## Address to the Teachers - Alexandra Baird, Merah Gasmu, Maahi Shah



Four years in the grand scheme of things isn't a very long time to spend with someone. But four years is all it took for the teachers in our school to show us that they will support, guide, and care for us no matter what. At Campbell, we're lucky because we have such a large and diverse group of teachers, each one of them always ready to support their students. While we may not have had the opportunity to build a relationship with all the teachers, every teacher has in some way, big or small, positively impacted our time at Campbell. So on behalf of the students, we are honoured to say a huge thank you, to teachers, guidance counsellors, administration, maintenance staff and all the faculty at Campbell Collegiate that continue to inspire us to make a difference in our world.

One area of study that truly inspires us is the languages. Many of us students have spent our years focusing on multiple languages throughout our studies. While we have learnt many things in the classroom, what we are most thankful for is what our teachers have taught us about the world around us and the multiple lenses that exist to view the world. Mrs. Repski, for example, has helped so many of us on our journey to social justice in her English classes. She has inspired us to take chances and have an open mind towards people who may have a different life story than our own personal one. It is said that to learn a new language is to have one more window to look at the world through, and no matter what class we took, looking at the

world from a new light is something that all of our teachers have encouraged us to do. No matter what, our teachers have always strived to create a safe environment for students to discover and express themselves through language. And many of our teachers have extended this outside of the classroom like the creation of Girls Group with Ms. Hagman, Ms. Ready and Ms. Bahia. We cannot thank you enough for the support and guidance you have provided us every step of the way. Most importantly we thank you for the ways that you have inspired us to make a difference in our world and pass the positive impact you have had on us on to others. There is no doubt that your dedication to students has always been your first priority.

A core group of subjects that makes us think innovatively and truly allows us to go outside of the box is science, math and social studies. Mr. Foreman has always supported and exposed us to a world full of scientific discoveries. He is such a unique teacher for so many of us, that the best gift to thank him was a new pair of shoes. Mr. Aitken, although he says he “doesn’t care” about his students, we know that he would do anything to help us succeed...even if that means staying at school until three am! Math is sometimes nicknamed as the hardest subject ever, from derivatives to the quadratic formula, however, we can all agree that it’s easier to manage with our incredible teachers that go above and beyond in teaching. Thanks to Mrs. Carignan with her unique acronyms and math puns that manage to help us out in the middle of a test, and Mrs. Turner with her undevoted love for math and curling, we were able to successfully push through our math courses. It was a math teacher that once said, “It’s not the math equations that matter, it’s what you do with the math equations”. This is just a simple saying that means so much more; in life, we are given the cards to play, yet we have the ability to decide how we will use them. Social studies might have taught us about the past, but it also shapes who we will be in our future. Take right now for an example, we are living through history during this pandemic, and this experience will be written in the history books for sure. Thank you for



standing by us at every step to guide, motivate and inspire us to become better people.

The areas that students get to express themselves the most would have to be fine arts, PAA, business, and physical education. The fine arts department consists of many different programs that all allow students to share their gifts and talents. The music program is one big dysfunctional family. We are definitely going to miss Mr. Peters' banana jokes, Ms. Redant's enthusiasm for all types of music, Mr. Baird's amazing piano skills and Mrs. Baird's continuous drive to make us better people, and constantly helping bring dreams to light. Through art, you taught us to be expressive and most importantly to be ourselves. Thank you for having open hearts for every student you meet. Another tight knit community is the PAA department that allows students to learn and try skills that can be applied outside of the classroom. We want to show appreciation to Mr. Clarke who helped build success in the Robotics teams, and Mrs. Nagel who always supplied us with delicious McTavish meals. Thank you for allowing students to take part in hands-on learning and have fun while doing so. Business is such an innovative department, but this wouldn't be possible without Ms. Bachynski and Mrs. Labas who give their all to help the business students succeed. Thank you for motivating us to realize the power behind social media and technology. Thank you to the Phys. Ed teachers for the exhausting, yet rewarding time spent fitness testing. Whether through Mr. Nagel's epic pickle balls skills, Mr. Adam's coaching and jokes, or Mrs. Lynch and Ms. Harrison motivation; this department has taught us all how to live healthy and have fun while doing so.

One group of teachers that we would like to give a special thank you to is our AP teachers. A group of us spent the last four years preparing and studying for hours on end getting ready for the "Big Day." Often there were times where many of us thought we would not succeed, however, we kept going because our teachers were there to pick us up and push us forward. Even though this year's exams did not look the way we thought they would, we were still able

to complete them because we had the support and dedication from our teachers.

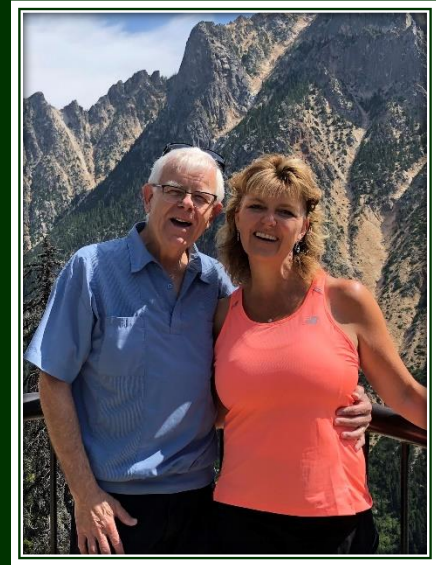
These memories are only a few of the highlights of time spent with teachers. Back in grade nine most of us probably remember the absolute fear we felt entering high school. Even those of us who said they weren't, probably still had a hint of nervousness on that first day. In only a few days most of that fear vanished because we had teachers there to guide us. Our CAP teachers helped us manage time tables and stay organized, our subject teachers prepared us for the next level of learning, and even teachers who we didn't know helped us find our ways in the halls. Then behind the scenes our administration staff spent countless hours ensuring everyone's needs were met, and our maintenance staff kept the school safe and running. Our teachers have been there for us all along and for that, we must say, "Thank you!" However, the even bigger thank you, we should be giving is for what none of us ever saw coming. As we approached the end of the year, we began to think that we were ready to step out on our own. Then overnight, Covid - 19 happened and everything became unfamiliar and scary again. But, we were not alone because we were able to lean on the ones who have always been there for us, our teachers.

So, we must say thank you for the help provided, lessons planned, and the time spent in school. And most importantly, we thank you for the care, help, and support you've additionally provided us with outside of the four walls of Campbell. We might have a new chapter to begin, but we know that we will always have the support of our teachers behind us.

## Response to the Class of 2020 - Russ & Deidre Baird

We are honoured to offer a response on behalf of the teachers to the Campbell Graduating Class of 2020. As your teachers we always hope to see in our students a love of learning, a compassionate heart and a hunger to make a positive difference in our school, local and global communities.

So what does being a Campbell Tartan Grad in 2020 really mean?



### 1. TARTAN GRADUATES ARE BRAVE!

You demonstrated your bravery as you adapted to the changes that Covid 19 brought you. You demonstrated the courage to look at school differently – you understood that the ceremonies associated with your Graduation would not look the same. Yet – you’ve overcome these barriers – and we celebrate you as you endeavoured to find a different way to commemorate your high school years.

### 2. TARTAN GRADUATES ARE CONSISTENT AND PERSISTENT!

Learning happens slowly and consistently. Our 2020 grads were committed to contributing to their success. You demonstrated that mastering skills only comes with practice.

### 3. TARTAN GRADUATES PARTNER WITH TEACHERS!

You recognised that your teachers were valuable resources whom you needed to work with in partnership. You participated in class, asked questions, and reached out for help when you needed it.

### 4. TARTAN GRADUATES VALUE A WHOLE EDUCATION!

In life, we very rarely persist or strive in an endeavour if we don’t think it is valuable. You understood that all of the curricular and extra-

curricular activities you were doing in school were of value, whether or not it would lead directly to your post-grad vocation.

## 5. TARTAN GRADUATES ARE SUCCESSFUL!

You set goals, you embraced failures, you wrestled with the most difficult problems and although you were not victorious in every instance, you matured through the effort you made. You stressed out, you broke down, you found delight in simple and complex solutions. All of these experiences will serve you very well in your future.

Grad Class 2020...You showered Campbell with honours in athletics, academics, performing arts, visual arts, technical arts, the practical and applied arts, the culinary arts, and business arts. You cherished our Best Buddies and cared for all our FIAP students in and outside of your CAP. When you saw an injustice you protested in a civil dutiful manner. You supported staff, you valued the work the SLC promoted. You cared for each other.

You are a successful person, a Tartan who will take the skills you have learned at Campbell and magnify them to ensure a wonder-filled future. We are proud of you graduates and are very privileged to have been partners with you on your journey for the past four years.

So be proud 2020 Grad and remember, "Once a Tartan, always a Tartan!"

YOU ARE A MIGHTY TARTAN!  
YOU ARE THE BRAVE AND BOLD;  
VICTORY IS YOUR BATTLE CRY  
YOU WORE THE GREEN AND GOLD.  
YOU ARE A MIGHTY TARTAN!  
TRIUMPHANT YOU DID ROAR.  
FROM FAR AND NEAR, HEAR AND FEAR  
THE TARTAN'S MIGHTY ROAR  
T-A-R-T-A-N-S, T-A-R-T-A-N-S, T-A-R-T-A-N-S,  
GO TARTANS!!