

MARYLAND

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With the sudden shuttering of schools, there has been much talk about the Class of 2020. Our seniors are going to miss out on prom, senior awards, picnics, Tractor Day, and many other student rites of passage including graduation, the ultimate recognition of their 13+ years of hard work and dedication.

Many wonder if it is possible for the Class of 2020 to move forward when so much seems unfinished in their lives. I have no doubt that they will still achieve their goals and do it with the same perseverance they have shown throughout their high school career.

For a struggling student trying to find her place in the complicated world of high school, making friends was difficult and choosing friends became a task in finding who could move her farther away from her goal of graduating. This unwanted path led to failed classes, bad decisions, and multiple suspensions. It took perseverance for her to stay away from those toxic friendships and rediscover her path that leads to a diploma.

Some students find their success-filled high school path abruptly interrupted by a health crisis. For an academically gifted and multi-sport athlete who faced a Traumatic Brain Injury after surviving a near-death car accident, it is her continued perseverance that has allowed her to overcome the physical and mental challenges of her recovery.

For others, they enter high school with obstacles in place before they even step into the building. For an immigrant moving into our school community, the language barrier felt nearly impossible to overcome. While it did require her to take 3 English classes her senior year, it is her perseverance that has allowed her to succeed in high school and graduate on time.

The Class of 2020 will take a unique path to walk across the graduation stage; however, they will not be deterred in achieving their goals and finding future success. They have the perseverance to make a difference and be the change makers we need today for a better tomorrow.