



SANTA MONICA - MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

June 9, 2022

Superintendent's Message to the MHS Class of 2022

Dear Malibu High School Class of 2022,

Congratulations to the MHS class of 2022!

Malibu High school graduates of 2022 navigated an uncharted path with the most unexpected learning and growth experiences none of us ever imagined four years ago. Perseverance, adaptability, creativity, resourcefulness, time management and resilience are a few of the lessons learned, along with the usual coursework required by the state of California.

Your accomplishments, both academically and socially-emotionally are worthy of celebrating!

Your freshman year started off with all the promise in the world. Then the Woolsey fire struck in November and forever changed the lives of many of our families and staff, and the Malibu community. We also experienced dangerous mudslides and flooding due to the havoc raised by the fire. Malibu High School students were introduced to Zoom school during this time with a month of in-person school missed as the City and the school district cleaned up and ensured that the air quality was suitable for the return to school. We provided supports and resources to our families and staff during this difficult time. We hoped for a fresh start at the beginning of your sophomore year, but instead in mid-March 2020, the world came to a halt with the COVID-19 pandemic upon all of us. The remainder of the year and your junior year were predominantly online, where Malibu students and staff returned to the Zoom and online platform skills they acquired during the Woolsey fire.

This was a difficult time for all, youth and adults alike. Everything that was familiar to us was in flux and constant changes became the norm.

Fortunately, we were one of the first school districts in Los Angeles County to return to full in-person instruction following spring break of 2021, providing for a more traditional end of your junior year, with your full senior year in person. This was due to students, staff and parents all working together to minimize the spread of this contagious virus. We started this school year cautiously, but gradually all activities were restored, along with traditions, including prom and graduation.

And, you persevered every step of the way. You stayed connected in new ways and stuck together to make this momentous occasion a joyous one. We know for some that it may be challenging and a bit scary to leave your comfort zone, however, your family and friends, along with your teachers and your communities are cheering for your success in your next chapter.

As your superintendent, I am incredibly proud of you. I look forward to hearing stories about your future endeavors and successes. Whether you are going on to Santa Monica College, a four-year university, into a certificate program or other postsecondary opportunity, we know the Class of 2022 will make a difference in the world. We need you to make that difference for the good of all.

Stay strong and know that your time at SMMUSD has prepared you for a brighter future. We wish you all the best in health and success in your future.

Your superintendent,

Dr. Ben Drati