Good morning and welcome to the 8th grade Promotion Ceremony for the Class of 2020!

Please stand and join me in the Pledge of Allegiance

Thank you –you may be seated!

I’d like to start off and recognize some special guests that have joined us this morning…

Well it’s hard to believe that the end of the school year and another phase of your education is complete. While some of the days may have seemed long-- the years have been short. Two years are over in the blink of an eye and it’s exciting to think of what is yet to come….

Students I want you to take a moment and look into the bleachers and the seats behind you…can you feel the love and support in the room???

You should know that your moms and dads, actually everyone in this gym are very proud of you today. They have high hopes for you, and they believe in you, and you are making them proud by showing what you can do. You saw that they were smiling and snapping photos so they can record this moment forever. Today is an important day for you and for them. Today we are very, very proud of you.

Today would also be a good day to hug them and thank them for supporting you, because as much as this is your achievement, this is also the achievement of the people who care about you. That means your mom, dad, step mom or step dad, grandparents, sisters and brothers, aunts and uncles and all the other people who care about you want you to be your best and to live up to your potential.

This Promotion Ceremony is an official way to recognize when you step into the next stage of life…and let me say… you are about to embark on quite a journey.

With every year, you have become a little more independent. I bet you can still remember your first day here - it might have been exciting and a little intimidating too. I know when you looked at the 7th graders going to class at the beginning of this year you thought… Wow! They look so little! I can't believe I was ever that little even though it was only the year prior! Get used to it. You'll be thinking that for the rest of your life.

You had some great times this year, and maybe you had some tough times, but you did it, you stuck to it and you succeeded. You're ready for that next step. You’re ready to begin what could be and will be some of the best times of your life…you’re ready for high school!

I’m going to challenge right now to take full advantage of what high school has to offer. The majority of you will be going to FPC and I can’t say enough how wonderful that school is. I challenge you to get involved and make the most out of the next 4 years! Dedicate yourself to making the next year even better. Remember, you are your own person and you can determine the path you will follow. Do the right thing when nobody’s looking, invest your time in getting the most out of what high school has to offer and set your goal right now to walk across the stage in 2020 having earned your high school diploma!

There are great things coming, and just as your parents are proud, each one of you should feel proud of yourself.

So congratulations to all of the students, congratulations to the parents and family members, and finally, congrats to the teachers and everyone else who helped each of you get here today.

I'll leave you with this final quote, from a great author with whom I imagine you are all familiar, by the name of Dr. Seuss.

"You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself in any direction you choose. You're on your own. And you know what you know. You are the one who'll decide where to go."

Congratulations Class of 2020, and thank you!

We are now going to present the Promotion certificates…I just have a few things before we get started…

Please hold all applause and cheering until the end so everyone has the opportunity to hear the students’ names….we will also be announcing a few additional accomplishments…All A’s for all 4 marking periods, perfect attendance, those who earned industry certification in Microsoft Office Suite (MOS) and the two students who were recently awarded the Sons of American Revolution Citizenship Award.

I would like to introduce you to Mr. Dusty Sims, Principal of FPC. I’ve asked him to say a few words before we conclude this morning.

Thank you for all coming out. If you are planning on taking your child with you please exit out the doors through the concession area. We have stations set up for you to sign your child out.