

Senior Graduation Speech

Hello everyone and welcome to Gilroy High's Class of 2020, first ever, virtual graduation! My name is Olivia Bozzo and I am honored to be speaking as class president on behalf of such an unforgettable class. Thank you everyone for joining us today to celebrate the journey and accomplishments made by the students of 2020. Our adventure is quite unique, so let's start at the very beginning of our story. In this case, it was at Mustang Madness. As eighth graders, our final months included visiting our future high school's open house to get a sneak peak of the next four years of our lives. We witnessed Ms. Moore excitedly showing off her FFA animal friends, Mrs. Lee and Spun looking like scientists in their white lab coats, and Coach Ogle having us do push ups for a free PE shirt. Most of us, including our future teachers, were unknown to one another ... I always thought 2020 sounded like a cool year to graduate, and it wasn't until Mustang Madness as I heard excited parents talk with each other, I realized I wasn't the only one. Ever since then, we have been told 2020 was going to be a special year, we would have that so-called 2020 vision.

After many of us were promoted from various middle schools, we became unified for our first day of high school. We managed to overcome the unfamiliar school day, with our schedules right in front of us. If we wanted to play it cool, we would have our class schedule as our phone's lock screen. Lunch time brought much more freedom, as well as the uneasiness of hanging around those so much older, like the seniors. For most of us, we clung to who we knew. But as weeks went on, we began to experience our firsts together. Our first Friday night football game. Our first spirit day. Our first high school dance, and with that, our high school journey was starting to unfold.

Sophomore year began and we escaped our freshman status. New friendships were forming and we walked around school with some more confidence. We over excessively flung around our car keys when we got our licenses, and as tenth graders we got to witness the only year our football team won back the Bell.

Junior year and we were upperclassman, yet still not senior table worthy. We sat in the bleachers under the fireworks at our Homecoming game, feeling proud of our well earned first place victory with our UP float. That same year, we threw colored chalk in the air and expressed our most spirited Mustang pride at a hometown football game. The end of Junior year started our curiosity of what we wanted to do after high school. We found interest in each other's ideas as we discovered our future endeavors. Some

of us are heading further in education, the workforce, and some holding military aspirations. Our last first day of high school was just one summer away.

It wasn't always normal that our class of over 300 would agree on everything. However, as we looked forward to our senior year, we were unified by what was to come. Our last homecoming, sports game, concert, play, field trip, and prom that would all come together at graduation was all part of the excitement we shared. We walked around on the first day of senior year, standing out from the rest with our personalized crowns. We knew all the shortcuts around campus, teachers weren't strangers anymore, and we became the seniors at the long awaited senior table. It was this year, our last year, to where our senior story became like no other. When you first look at what the class of 2020 has been through, you see not only one, but many circumstances that are incredibly unlucky. As a class and as a community, we had to endure a once unimaginable tragedy in July of 2019. A time in our lives that will forever be with us. Throughout the year, many have mourned over the notable losses of our inspiring icons. And currently, everyone worldwide is experiencing an unfortunate event that will dictate the way of life for years to come. We could spend much of our time discussing the disappointments that were brought upon us in the past year. With that said, it is important to understand that despite our misfortune, we are here. We have made it through situations that some people will never go through their entire lives, and we are just out of high school. So this is why our story is unique. As seniors, we repeated the concept of our "firsts." We had our first virtual classroom. First drive by birthday celebration. And now, we are the first class in history to graduate online.

As hard as it may be, we have to appreciate the favorable memories of our senior year. We watched the sunrise to start our year, showed off our inner artist as we painted our parking spots, and danced the night away as we sailed the San Francisco Bay. Meanwhile, we stood by each other in times of growth and made some unforgettable memories. We have overcome adversity, and with the help of our teachers, parents, and loved ones, we as the class of 2020 are ready to show the world that we are GILROYSTRONG. I would like to end with a quote from an unknown writer, "Whenever you find yourself doubting how far you can go, just remember how far you have come. Remember everything you have faced, all the battles you have won, and all the fears you have overcome." So use what our 2020 vision has given us and good luck to everyone as they finish one chapter, and turn the page to the next!