

What my graduation speech would be

Jennah Klein, *Photography Editor*

Class of 2020, I stand (or sit at my computer) before you today, with pride and melancholy coursing through my veins. We should have been sitting on those rows at Red Rocks, maybe feeling the bouncing of the person's leg next to yours, or giving a smile to the teachers that sit at the end of each row. But here we are in our living rooms.

On our first day of high school, Mrs. Muellenberg told us, "There are those who watch it happen, those who make it happen, and those who ask, 'What happened?'" I won't remember all of the basketball games I went to, grades I got, or all of the events that I put on. What I will remember, are the people. The people of Highlands Ranch High School made my experience what it was.

You've seen those posts saying that we were born during the time of 9/11 and now we're graduating at the time of a global pandemic. But we have been through so much more. When we were six or seven years old, many of our parents lost their jobs, and we were in elementary school when Sandy Hook happened. Those moments, although we didn't truly understand them, are ingrained in all of our memories. We also experienced some amazing things together. When our school was suffering after the loss of one of our own, we came together in a way that we had never before. And right after, we raised over \$40,000 for other kids to make their dreams come true. So many monumental moments happened in our years. We remember and cherish them.

Nonetheless, here we are. This global pandemic has changed our lives forever. Although I have probably shed immense amounts of tears over not getting to experience those iconic senior year moments with my classmates that we looked forward to, I am lucky to get to be someone who can share this memory with all of you. We're all in this together, and if the world thought we would sit in sorrow at our possible virtual graduation, they were wrong. I am so proud to be in a class of resilient, wonderful, change-makers. Class of 2020, thank you for being a class to remember.



Although graduation will look different this year, students will still receive their cap, gown, and cords. They will be able to pick them up on a specified date. *Photo by Jennah Klein*