

To the Graduating Class of 2002,

This has been a year of tremendous success in many ways but also a year of terrible tragedy. All of our academic and athletic accom-



plishments are certainly important and memorable. For years to come, we will recount the thrill of victory in competition. At the same time, the accident that claimed the lives of two of our students will also live in our memories. Ben McKibben and Chris Tolle were not seniors but they were part of our school "family" and their deaths touched us all. We will also remember the sweet smile of Suzanne "Peg" Graves and the battle she waged with Cystic Fibrosis. Guard that precious commodity, "life", you are

blessed with and make your life count for something good.

I am grateful for having the opportunity to work with you again. The future of Rockcastle County was my theme when you graduated from middle school four years ago and it continues today. You have done well. Many of your classmates didn't make the right decisions and will not be crossing the stage with you to receive a diploma. They will miss out now and in the future. High school graduates earn, on average, \$500 more per month than dropouts. How will you use your wealth? There is one more step you can take. College and four-year technical school graduates will earn an average in excess of \$1,000 more than high school graduates during their careers. Set your sights high and don't be content with what you have accomplished. There are more dragons to slay in your quest for the future.

The shortest commencement address I ever read was also the most powerful. Dr. Harold Hyde, President of New Hampshire's Plymouth State College gave a three-sentence address. It went like this:

*"Know yourself - Socrates. Control yourself - Cicero.
Give yourself - Christ."*

That is good advice. Good luck to you and if I can be of assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely, Your Friend,

John Hale
John Hale, RCHS Principal

CONGRATULATIONS
ON A JOB
Well Done!

May this be the beginning of
a lifetime of success!

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