

Dear Class of 2013,

It's difficult to believe that we are well into the second semester of your senior year and there is snow on the ground in March! I have had a difficult time crafting this letter to you, mainly because I am reluctant to let you go. The past four years with you have been a whirlwind of activities, accomplishments, assessments and achievements—all due to the dedication of your class as a whole. I am so proud of the young men and women you are growing up to be and have enjoyed watching you thrive and flourish since you were anxious freshmen not so many years ago. Now the time has come to send you out into the world, armed with the knowledge, skills and confidence that you can face any challenge that might come your way and not only face it, but overcome it! The teachers, counselors, administrators and staff who have worked to guide and assist you in achieving this milestone are looking forward to the changes you will make in this world—undoubtedly for the better.



There are a few things I have learned about your class that encourage me about your future and give me hope for what you will become. The first is your unwavering commitment to doing the right thing! While no one is perfect and mistakes are a natural part of being human, I have noticed that your class is steeped in integrity and is dedicated to championing worthy causes—from issues in our school to wider problems within our community, you have established yourselves as passionate, vocal promoters of a better world. My hope is that you never lose your commitment to action and cling tightly to the noble character you've worked hard to develop.

Another noteworthy quality about the Class of 2013 is your consistent academic rise over the past several years. As juniors, you achieved the highest average ACT score of any class during the past five years. You dedicated yourselves to doing your best in all of your classes, both required and elective. The race to see who will earn top honors for this year's class has been such a close one! We have watched your competitive spirit bleed into your academic studies from the ball fields, courts and track. Your attention to quality in your student organizations and extra-curricular activities has helped you earn state and national honors. I hope you realize that your coaches, teachers, sponsors and mentors are applauding you every step of the way. I also hope that you continue your academic pursuits into higher education and training, so that there is no limit to what you can accomplish in life.

Finally, I will miss your optimism and kindness, both traits I know you inherited from your families; however, you have always shown respect and compassion to your peers and to the adults who work with you each day. The goodness you show toward humanity will come back to you tenfold if you maintain that level of acceptance and benevolence into your adult life. I cannot express how much I have appreciated your willingness to receive discipline (which was rare, but sometimes necessary) and accept consequences with little resistance. This shows that you respect authority and are aware of our need for rules in life. If you disagreed with a decision, you never hesitated to make your appeals known, but often offered a solution to a problem. Yet, you have always been respectful and courteous, and that will carry you farther in life than you realize at this moment.

Your high school career has been filled with myriad changes in several areas. Under Senate Bill 1, school districts were mandated to ensure that all students were College and Career-Ready, and the former CATS assessment system in place when you began high school became K-Prep. New assessments were administered, including the ACT for all juniors and End of Course exams. Your ability to adapt and prosper in this new system is probably the truest indicator of your future success. We at Rockcastle County High School want to commend you on one of your greatest achievements up to this point in your lives. Have faith that we are always here to support and assist you if you need us, knowing that you will hold a special place in our hearts and memories. Congratulations—Class of 2013!! The future belongs to YOU!

Sincerely,

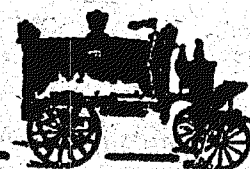
*Jennifer C. Mattingly*

Mrs. Jennifer Mattingly

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## Congratulations Class of 2013!



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