



Needham School Committee

A school and community partnership that • creates excited learners • inspires excellence • fosters integrity.

Message from Ms. Heidi Black, Chair
Needham School Committee
June 4, 2012

On behalf of the entire Needham School Committee, greetings to all and congratulations to the Needham High School class of 2012!

We gather today: graduates, families, friends, neighbors and teachers, celebrating your past achievements, while opening the door to your future ones. I'm sure today you all feel a mix of emotion. You're happy, sad, nervous, uncertain, feeling grown up and optimistic. You're probably all **individually** feeling some of these things, as well as the joy and loss you've experienced together as a class. A day like today is really, I think, the epitome of what it means to be a community.

So here you are, you're all about to start a great adventure. That's really what it is. Think about it. Does anyone really know what's in store for him or her now? You all probably have a guess, or a goal, or a hope for what the future will bring, but the path that takes you there is still uncharted with so much still ahead that you don't know. Now, this might actually feel a little strange, not knowing what lies ahead, especially since these days, it's really pretty easy to find out things you don't know. Have a question and don't know the answer? Just Google it. You'll likely find thousands of results. If that doesn't satisfy your need to know, go to Wikipedia and you can find the detail. Want to know the song playing on the radio? Shazam! Looking for music? Pandora already knows what you want to hear and has it all lined up for you.

Need directions on how to get where you want to go? That's what a GPS is for. Your computer knows. Your phone knows. Your car even knows exactly how to direct you. And that GPS will get you there, sharing with you the quickest and most direct way to travel.

But here's the thing. When it comes to getting your questions answered, finding the right direction, solving problems, discovering what you like, or just trying to figure out what to do, life's not really as simple as software. I'm sure we've **all** wished for that GPS to guide us and direct us on how to get to our destination. But on the adventure you're about to embark on, the course you plot may change and shift. There's often no warning for the roadblocks and detours ahead. Most times you won't know the alternative route to take if your original one doesn't work out. Lots of times you may have to change your plans or readjust. But you can do that and still keep moving ahead.

When searching for what you really want to know and do, which way to go, which choices to make, the Internet won't help. Only you can find those answers yourself. If you know what you want but don't find it along the way, then invent it! Create it!

You can make it happen! **No** device can instantly assist you with finding your passion; that has to come from within.

So, if you need help knowing, if you get stuck along the way, think back and remember **this** day and **this** community. **We** can be your support and your help, not an app. **We** can give you guidance and advice and lend a hand and **we** will celebrate your success! You may have hundreds of friends online, but today, and always, you have hundreds of friends here.

But in the end, we all know it's up to you. It's up to each of you to make your mark, and travel there in your own way. Have fun! Follow your heart! Only you can create your own playlist. We know you can and we know you will.

Good luck to the class of 2012!!!