

“I am a Scholar”
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As we end this part of our journey and move onto to bigger and better things I'd like to first start by saying: CONGRATS TO US! WE MADE IT! 🎉

Now, as I stand here and look out amongst my peers I smile with enthusiasm. Because, before me; I not only see future engineers, future medical personnel, future lawyers, future journalists, future educators, future actors such as myself, and so much more. I see a room full of ambitious leaders & motivated explorers wanting to make a change in this world and in their own lives. Along this journey, we have had to run obstacles and pray for miracles in hopes that we get to this point in our lives...

Well, gladly, we have accomplished that goal. I think I can speak for everyone when I say we have fought hard with many late night and last minute studies, breakfast dates with the library computers early mornings before class, frequently going to the bookstore for coffee like it's Starbucks for a few hours of energy...

We may have had disbelief in ourselves, thinking that we would never be able to make it thus far. We may not know where life leads from here, but we all have come a long way just trying to find our purpose in life and it's too late to give up now. I had a conversation with my friend one day about the next step, and how do I get there? You see because some of us have been told that we couldn't do it and that we were incompetent. That we would never make it further than the barriers of our towns and neighborhoods, and we would be just like a "typical." Well here is the time for us to raise our fist in the air, and say: "I am a scholar!"

As we embark on our journeys to success, we will only continue to face the poisons of life, which will only try it's hardest to forcefully inject our souls with disdain and provoke us from being as successful as we can. Don't let degradation hold us back from being the kings and queens we are. We shouldn't allow the failure of others to preserve us from reaching the highest acclivity we can. In the words of the late Maya Angelou:

"My mission in life is not merely to survive, but to thrive; and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humor, and some style. Success is liking yourself, liking what you do, and liking how you do it."

Life isn't just about growing up to pay bills, live pay check to pay check, and live unhappy or unsure. Life is about happiness and compassion, exploring and seeing the world for what it really is beyond what you read in a book. Life is about faith, faith that you can be something or someone if you work hard at it. When we have figured out the true meaning of our lives and our purpose here, then and only then have we lived!

Believe in yourself and know that anything you put your mind to can only become reality. Fight for your right to be heard, if you believe you can make a change then Change it! If you believe that you can educate the next soul to become something great, then teach it, if you believe that you can soar the world and change the lives of millions, then spread your wings and fly... and don't ever let anyone tell you what you can't achieve.

We are the G.O.A.T.S (greatest of all time) of the 21st century and our purpose in life is to make a difference. Let's inspire our next generation of brothers and sisters who will also one day become scholars, to want to be great just like us!
Herkimer 2K17 we made it!