



ST. EDWARD SCHOOL

Ms. Andrea Adorio Message to the Graduates

June 17, 2022

To Ms. Isabel Cuevas-Santos, President of St. Edward School, Dr. Doris DJ Estalilla, Schools Division Superintendent of the Division of General Trias City, Dr. John T. Cabalo, our principal, our beloved teachers, our dear parents, esteemed guests, and batch 2022, good day.

It has been seven years since I delivered my own graduation speech for batch 2015 and I am humbled and grateful to have been invited to deliver another one again, this time for batch 2022.

Although I can't be with you right now physically due to an equally important matter, know that I am very proud of your batch for persevering for your studies despite the adverse and difficult effects of the pandemic.

Back in high school, I would describe myself to be the kind of student who was an achievement-seeker.

I graduated as the batch valedictorian, I became the CSG president in 2013-2014, the Estoile school paper's managing editor, I also competed in school press conferences, quiz bees, and swimming competitions.

So now, many of you might be wondering, with all the accomplishments that I mentioned, where am I now or what I am doing since I finished my studies.

Sad to say but, I am NOT successful. Not yet, at the very least.

In fact, right after graduating in college, I wasn't even sure what I wanted to do in life. All I know is that I need to work to earn for a living. And that's what I did. I applied for so many jobs from different industries and for different positions. I was so confident that I would easily land any job with all the accomplishments that I have.

At least 30 companies after, I only received five email replies, of which four of them either says "we acknowledge the receipt of your application" but never really updated me afterwards or the famous line "we regret to inform you but you have not been selected for this position".

Of course, my ambitious and naïve self got discouraged. I started doubting my capabilities and thought "what's the point"? But nonetheless, I still have that one email where I got invited for an interview. So after crying and feeling hopeless, I still prepared and tried. During that job interview as I wait for my turn, I noticed that the other applicants look so much smarter than me, many already have previous work experiences, and I looked the youngest. I thought, this is the only shot that I have so might as well give my best.

I answered the exam and job interview to the best of my knowledge, with all honesty and sincerity. I was asked what I think was my edge from my co-applicants. And my answer was "despite my lack of work



ST. EDWARD SCHOOL

experience compared to them, what I do have is the genuine passion and thirst to learn new things. Not having any expertise at the moment is not a weakness but an advantage, because I am like brand new sponge, ready to absorb and adapt new skills that I will gain from this opportunity”.

Since then, I have been working as a public servant at the Department of Labor and Employment who handles one of its youth employment facilitation programs. I am proud to say that from a clueless fresh grad who hardly found her first job, I am now an instrument to help the at-risk Filipino youth find meaningful paid jobs.

With that, I want you to carry these lessons from my experience:

1. First, accomplishments do not equate success. You may have achievements right now as you graduate, but it is not a guarantee that things will go your way and your expectations. Likewise, if you think you lack achievements compared to your batchmates, that does not mean you won't go far in life. Success is immeasurable and there is not one metric that applies to all of us.

2. So, do not compare yourselves from others because that will only discourage you. There is someone who is always better than us just like those experienced applicants I met during my job interview. So instead of focusing on what you lack or what you can't do, divert your energy into improving yourself instead.

3. However, despite working hard, know you will continuously and inevitably fail in life. But this is not to discourage you; I want you to know that this is the reality outside the four corners of your classrooms and that you should learn how to adapt when things get difficult. Failure is something that no one can control, but you can control your emotions and actions towards failure. It's just like having no control on the number of failed job applications, but what I can control is my emotions and attitude towards it. If I just kept on crying after so many rejections, do you think I will still be the person who I am today?

Learn to accept that you will fail sometimes because this will only make you stronger to face tomorrow. You can pause to rest and reflect but do not stop. The journey towards success is not linear or like a staircase that only goes upward. It is a series of ups and downs that will lead you to your goals in life.

4. Lastly, I know that many of you feels scared, uninspired, or unsure of what to do next. And that's okay. Even I am still figuring out many things in life. There are still a lot of lessons we need to learn, experiences we need to try, and opportunities we need to take. Go out of your comfort zone. And if



ST. EDWARD SCHOOL

there are days when you would feel lost and clueless, just keep on trying, learning, and doing something. You will eventually figure it out.

To the class of 2022, may these lessons I shared help you pave your way towards success. Warmest congratulations on your graduation and best wishes for your future

endeavors!

Thank you.

IMUS CAMPUS - PRESCHOOL TO JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Lancaster Estate, Alapan II-B,
Imus City, Cavite
4103

FAITH CAMPUS - SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Kensington 1, Lancaster New City,
General Trias, Cavite
4107

CUSTOMER CARE

customercare@ses.edu.ph
+639606906868 (Smart)
+639177134794 (Globe)