

Hello Kahok Nation. I'm Superintendent Brad Skertich.

I hope everyone has had an enjoyable summer, to date.

As a reminder, we're asking all families to complete registration in the days ahead, so we can have an accurate count on students who will be entering our halls this fall.

I want to give a big shout-out and thank you to our custodial and maintenance staff. They do a ton of work throughout the summer that most never know about, and without their efforts we would not be ready to start the school year. So on behalf of our entire district, please tell them "thank you" when you see them.

This is not a new concept, and it's not something that we are rolling out for the first time - but that first Friday in August and every Friday throughout the school year, we're asking all families, all students and everyone throughout our community: Wear Purple and show your Kahok Pride. It's just a good reminder to keep that fire going and the passion that is throughout our community.

In a few weeks, we'll be welcoming kindergarteners to school for the first time. And while we are excited to see them, and watch them grow and mature over the years, we want to give families a snapshot and a glimpse of why the Class of 2022 loved Collinsville High School and the education they received here.

So take a look back at last year's graduates and all the good things they said about Collinsville High School. This is a good opening message and welcome to our new kindergarteners coming to school for the first time.

I hope everyone enjoys the final few weeks of summer and please find information linked in this video regarding Open Houses in the days and weeks ahead.

Thank you for the constant dedication to our students. Don't forget to wear your purple and show your Kahok Pride!

Transcript of 2022 Grad Video Clips

The community is amazing when you finally reach out and try to talk to people - or they'll come to you. That's a definite. It's always great - the support that everybody wants to bring to you.

All my teachers that I've had here at CHS have been amazing. They all seem to care about us. They try their best to really, like, help us improve in whatever topic we're trying to improve on. I can name a lot of specific teachers that have changed my life for the best. And you know, they've really just gone out there - gone out of their way - to help all of us become better students and better just people in general.

I used to be doing track. I used to do track. It didn't do it this year or last year because of COVID, obviously, but our Kahok Krazies and those students have huge support. They fill up the stands and make sure anybody - it doesn't matter how big or how small you are - they're going to cheer for you and get you to the finish line. Or get you to make a basket or make a touchdown.

It's amazing how people from kindergarten - those parents still remember and recognize me - and still congratulate me to this day for things I've done. Support through all generations is amazing. The elderly, the young. You see little kids who can't wait say that they are, can't wait to be a Kahok. They're Junior Kahoks and they can't wait for it in the future. I think it's amazing.

My teachers have just been so fantastic at explaining things - complex subjects that are getting explained at the perfect level. And on top of that, I get to do vocational classes, where I'm in video production and I've been there for three years. And I'm working with equipment that gets used out on the field. I'm going into an art school that is getting me ready for the field and I'm already going to know how to use some of that stuff.

I feel like I connect most with the community when I put my Kahok jersey on and played for the basketball team. And I got to see people from all walks of life - people that I knew, people maybe I didn't know - coming to our games and supporting us. And supporting such a prestigious and incredible program that is Collinsville basketball. It made me understand how great of a program, and how great of a team that I was playing for - and while sometimes it made me nervous, I was able to figure out a way to channel that energy into playing so hard and playing for the jersey that so many people loved.

There's always someone out there who's willing to help you or will kind of hold your hand in the process of helping you become accustomed or adapted to a certain environment or a different club or something. So you just kind of have to put yourself out there and do not be afraid. A lot of us just have to put ourselves out there, even if we're doing it alone. You'll always find someone along the way that's willing to help you.

I've had the same group of friends since Kindergarten. I met my first two friends in kindergarten - one of them didn't like me at the time, but we're good now. We added on another one in third grade. The rest we added on in Dorris and we've stayed together into now. We're getting ready to do a cap and gown graduation session.

My teachers are phenomenal. And I said this before in my student survey, and I will say it again, a student's experience here at CHS - the teachers and faculty here, they make it or break it. I definitely feel like I had an incredible experience here with my teachers. They are consistently pouring into me. They want the best for me. They want to see me succeed. I'll stay after school. I need help with calculus. My calculus teacher says "I will stay three hours after school just to make sure that you understand the material. It's so...it's so great that they care so deeply about me and they want to do the best that I can.

Once a Kahok. Always a Kahok.