

Graduation Speech

Brummana High School

145th Speech Day

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President

Lebanese American University

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Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests
Board Members of Brummana High School
Faculty, Members of the Administration, Staff and Parents,
President of Brummana High School, Dr. Walid Khoury

and above all
Dear Graduates,

As I look at you on this beautiful and emotion filled evening, I see in you the beautiful gems that each and every one of you is. I read on your faces the great potential progressively unfolding to shepherd our troubled world to the shores of peace, justice, and equality. I notice with delight different smiles on your faces, but all exuding pride in and satisfaction with your achievements. Since you entered Brummana High School, those gems that you were then, have been continuously enriched by academic splendors and graced with youthful maturity. You have been introduced with care and caring to your school's inspiring mission to provide you with the opportunity to excel in academics, the Arts and Sports; and to have a passion for integrity. You were meticulously prepared to become responsible citizens and life-long learners. As you well know, we live in a world dominated by the fourth Industrial revolution that is gripping the world with the advent of robotics, the rapid rise of nanotechnology, quantum computing, bio-engineering, the

internet of the things, machine learning, data analytics, and artificial intelligence. While you need to become well acquainted with or specialized in any of the above areas that are impacting our lives, you must not become automatons, you need to make sure that your skills are graced by education and culture, by the humanities and social sciences. You have been exposed to many academic disciplines. Your character has evolved and strengthened within the strong ethical and moral ethos of this marvelous institution

In this great institution, you have discovered the beautiful secrets of life. And here as well, your mind has been challenged and your temperament and personality seasoned. The values that you have acquired at this institution will guide you for the rest of your lives. The charm and power of its culture will enrich you in your future endeavors. Your gifted teachers have taught you the love of reading, writing, and academic success; the school's administration and staff, what the world expects from you; and Brummana High School, the value of self-esteem. Academic excellence has become your passion, The Brummana High School your pride. You will soon be proud alumnae and alumni of this marvelous institution, and as such, you will continue to claim it proudly as yours forever

Dear Graduates,

You're at the cusp of transitioning into a new phase in your lives. You will soon enter university to pursue your studies in your areas of academic interest. In university, you will have a less structured life and more freedom. But you need to know that with freedom comes responsibility. In university, you will spend perhaps the best years of your lives. You will find who you are, explore questions about your existence and the meaning of life. You will find God in your own way, establish high expectations of yourselves and find ways and means to meet the challenge. You will make new friends. You will meet inspiring professors. You will begin to dream about a bright future, reach for the stars, and realize your highest and most noble aspirations. Don't be afraid to make mistakes, learn your lessons and don't ever lose hope. University is the place where you will determine what you will do with your lives, what academic or professional career you will pursue, in consultation with your parents, and perhaps no matter what your parents think or say.

While in university, be an avid reader and a curious thinker. I am reminded of Bertrand Russell's curiosity. He died at the age of 79, but he had lived a full life as any earl could wish. He was active in politics and he paid dearly for that. He was elected to the Royal Society of London because of his brilliant intellect, and awarded the Nobel Prize for his excellence in literature.

He exhibited an incredible curiosity at an early age, Just think for a moment that at the age of 11, he began, tutored by his brother, reading Euclid's 13 arid books. And here is what he said about that experience: "this was one of the greatest event in my life, as dazzling as first love. I had not imagined that there was anything as delicious in the world. From that moment until I was 38, Mathematics was my chief interest and my chief source of happiness."

As you leave this institution, we would exhort you to carry with you the decent values that you have learned and internalized here at Brummana High School. Don't burry them in the ground and let them rust. Don't let the ethos of this marvelous institution die out in your hearts. Remember that this institution's traditions are steeped in a culture of excellence and success, inclusiveness, service, and love. The graduates of this institutions are excelling everywhere. You have incredible role models for you. Get in touch with them. Explain who you are and ask for their advice. Ask them about the secret of their success. Listen to the edifying story of their lives. An exciting world beckons to you and you have limitless choices. Don't allow anyone to make you feel inferior.

Make sure that you cling on to the verities you learned here that evil “never could be good, that falsehood will never be truth”; that “you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.”

My dear graduates, there are no more borders in the world. Globalization, fuelled and abetted by technological advances, has abolished the walls of separation and opened the gates for people to come together. But in coming together, the world is experiencing turmoil, misunderstandings, and conflicts that are stripping our civilization of any human and ethical values. But our only hope is you, the youth of Lebanon, the youth of the world. We have faith in you and we’re confident that in a diverse and conflicted world, you will carry the banner of dialogue, combat prejudice, encourage tolerance, and promote caring for others. Without practicing these values that Brummana High School has given to you, you will be contributing to a world that is a fertile ground for Samuel Huntington’s “clash of civilizations.”

أيها الخريجون والخريجات

أود بإسمي واسمكم، ان أحيي هذا الصرح التربوي الشريف لما بذله من عناية فائقة في سبيل تربيبتكم الاكاديمية المميّزة التّفوّق، ونموكم الشخصي المُرتكز على المشاركة في تحقيق قيم أخلاقية سامية، كادت تصبح يوماً بعد يوم، نادرة الوجود في عالمنا هذا، عالم العولمة، بل قل عالم الإباحة المعدومة الحياء.

لقد قدّمت لكم مدرسة برومانا هاي سكول بيئةً شبيقةً ومناخاً دافئاً طيباً، يتم احترام الذات والغير فيه. لقد اتاحت لكم بكل حب واخلاص اكتساب العلم والمهارات، التي تخولكم لعيش هنيء ولحياة نبيلة في عالم يتم التغيير فيه بسرعة هائلة تكاد أن تكون جنونية. ولقد شجعتكم بكل معطياتها لكي تحققوا نوعية نادرة، في مجالات العلم والثقافة دائماً ودوماً في إطار حب الحقيقة واحترامها. كما اود ايضاً ان اتقدم بفروض شكر نابغة من اعماق قلبي الى اساتذتكم الكرام على تضحياتهم الكثيرة والغالية في سبيل نجاح كل واحد وواحدة منكم. وان نسينا فلن ننسى ابداً، فضل أهلكم وأقاربكم الأكارم، الذين آمنوا إيماناً وثيقاً بكم، وبقدرتكم على النجاح فإذا بكم تفقوا الآن امامهم، عرابين فخر واعتزاز وأمل، أمل في حياة أفضل لكم، ولبلدنا لبنان، وللعالم بأجمعه.

وأخيراً وليس آخراً أود ان اشكر إدارة مدرسة برومانا هاي سكول وخصوصاً رئيسها الدكتور وليد خوري لما أسبغت عليكم من خدمات تربوية سامية.

In fine, I salute you, congratulate you and wish you every success in your future endeavors. Go on and change the world for the better.

Thank you and God Bless.