To the BCAM Graduates, Our Class of 2020:

These thoughts come with love and pride, but also with truth and challenge. Class of 2020, you made it. Three and two-thirds difficult years of high school, concluding with a potentially life changing last four months. And now it’s finally here. Congratulations. We are proud of you. Sadly, you were not able to strut down our halls or celebrate in various ways in the final months of your senior year. I’m sorry. Our whole community is sorry. Nonetheless, you are graduating high school! You are leaving BCAM!

For many of you, your hard work, perseverance, and talent have been inspiring. You are now young adult professionals in training, with accomplishments and experiences that show you are ready to take that leap forward to college and the professional world. You are practiced scholars and exhibited artists. You are international travelers and scholar-athletes. You are scholarship and grant winners. Even in this unique time, the list of college and universities to which you have received acceptances is amazing: CUNY’s, SUNY’s, HBCU’s, private and out of state schools. This is a testament to your hard work and also our college counseling staff!

However, we all hope you are clear about the significance of this time. As graduates, you must now, more than ever, recognize that our country has been exposed as broken and very sick. It needs change, on so many levels. COVID-19 has rapidly impacted our experiences and many fear that pandemics will become a norm of our lives. So please, Class of 2020, be intelligent and continue to take necessary precautions and make healthy decisions.

Our BCAM community more importantly hopes that the social turmoil of the last few months has stirred a real chord in you. The murders of innocent, unarmed Black men and women at the hands of police, and other vile, racist people, are simply a more filmed and explicit exposing of the personal and institutional racism and white supremacy, and disregard for Black and Brown lives that has plagued the United States for a long, shameful history and continues today. It is agonizing, but it is also the truth. Of course, we all hope and pray the growing movement of change coming from these recent tragedies and the continued exposing of America, is tangible and impactful, not symbolic and token.

So, I say to you Class of 2020, it is a time for sincere and sustained effort, a heightened intelligence, and a strong sense of your own personal vision. Today, more than ever, your success is about what you do, not what you say nor what you intend. It is a time to look yourselves in the mirror and break away from immaturity rife with excuses, laziness, victimhood, over-reliance, mind-stifling haze, obsession with social media, and constant choices of immediate gratification. In other words, it is time to grow up.

Let’s set a quick but hopefully profound collective action plan. First, take pride in your work, whether academic, artistic or professional. Have goals and a daily and weekly schedule and stick to them. Work hard and smart, not fake and silly. Second, teach yourselves to be more aware and active. Understand our shameful history, how it continues today, how it affects you, and how to help change it. Click off your timeline and click on the news and a critical perspective of our world. Get involved in the movement. Vote in November for the presidency, but also vote in every election for the rest of your lives, local and national. Thirdly, take pride in your health and appearance. Sleep a full night. Wake up early. Stop eating so much junk. Work out and exercise. Dress fly but dress nice. And lastly, be positively collaborative and connected! Surround yourselves with people you trust and those that inspire you to be your best and most ambitious. Distance yourselves from hate, negativity and drama.

Class of 2020, please know that we all love you. Personally, and we as a community, have critiqued you and pushed you, but we’ve always wanted the best for you. We want you to make your families proud, and we want to see you succeed. You are us and we are you. So, as you embark on your next journey, don’t forget those who supported you and also held you accountable. These people deserve your sincere gratitude, and you can show it best by fulfilling your potential and making your mark in the realms you choose.

I want to conclude by again wishing you nothing but success moving forward. We are proud of you. We love you. We will be here for you, with anything you need. Now, go forward and be your best selves and live your best lives.

Class of 2020, congratulations. You did it!

JAMES O’BRIEN, PRINCIPAL

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Samantha R. Exantus, Assistant Principal

These are lyrics to Whitney Houston’s song “Greatest Love of All”. These words are what lead me into becoming an educator. Why? Because I believe the words to be true. If we teach our youth to believe in themselves and know their own strengths, the future will be brighter for all of us. You, the Class of 2020, are our future. You all have grown to be such strong-minded, independent, young adults. Use your strengths and grow past your weaknesses to shine in life of this world. When in doubt look inside yourselves, not on social media, to know what’s right and how to move forward. Regardless if next year brings you to college, the work force, the military or even the unknown, look within to continue to guide your steps.

You all are #BCAMStrong!!! So watch out world, here comes the Class of 2020, ready to lead and show everyone what they’re made of!!

Janna Bello, Assistant Principal

To the Class of 2020:

Finishing your high school career while in quarantine is not what any of us ever envisioned, but here we are. The last few months have not been easy and seemingly not fair, but you guys NEVER lost what makes you special. I have watched in awe as you have continued to learn, celebrate accomplishments, support one another, complain, argue, whine - continue to be the BCAM Class of 2020. You have proven that nothing will stop you and that nothing will ever dull your shine. This is perhaps one of the most important lessons that you could have ever learned. Life will hand you ups and downs, but no matter what, NEVER change who you are and never ever let anyone or anything stop you from achieving your goals.

But first, you need to figure out who you really are - what truly makes you happy. And to that, I offer this advice - one last time - I’m going to tell you, PUT YOUR PHONES AWAY!! Stop worrying about how many likes you have and figure out what and who you like. Stop focusing on how many shares or views you can rack up and instead figure out what you have to share with others, to share with the world. Stop posting about inequalities and instead go out and protest, vote, make a difference. Life is literally passing you by while you are staring at your phones. Live in the moment. Talk to people, not via text, but face to face. Eat, laugh, be silly, be real. Stop posing and stop worrying about the next person. One of the biggest reasons that so many of you don’t know your self worth, is because you are constantly comparing yourself to other people and to the things others have or front like they have. If you continue to do this, you will never find happiness.

So I challenge you. I challenge you to put down your phone and to figure out who you are. To figure out what you’re passionate about. To figure out who your true friends are. To figure out what you are meant to do with your life. To embrace your strengths and recognize your weaknesses. To be confident in your beliefs and your opinions and to take responsibility for your choices. Do these things and you will find your happiness, I promise you.

I hope each of you now believes me when I say that you are truly capable of accomplishing ANYTHING that you set your mind to. I have no doubt that the Class of 2020 has the capability to do great things - you have already started to do them. Remember, each of you is a part of the BCAM family - FOREVER. Stay in touch. Congratulations!
Faculty and Staff

I can play the piano, I am a Pisces and my favorite show is The Office.
-Ms. LaFemina

I have been featured on film, television, and radio.
-Ms. Clark

I'm extra, I love to sing and I can speak three languages.
-Mr. Osman

In college, I owned and crashed a Yamaha Virago 920cc motorcycle. No broken bones.
-Mr. Howell

I have visited over 10 countries.
-Mr. Munch

I've been in a Lifetime movie and in a Broadway show :)
-Ms. Roth

I was the featured model in a newspaper.
-Ms. Burke
ACADEMICS

SCIENCE

Favorite SCIENCE experiment:
- "Earth Science project on stars" - Damani Taylor
- "Dissecting a frog in Living Environment" - Justina Styles
- "Making butter and eating it in Chemistry" - Darius DeVoe

ENGLISH

Favorite BOOK to read in school:
- "Of Mice and Men" - Marco Ramirez
- "Macbeth" - Perla Garcia
- "If Beale Street Could Talk" - Brianna Salley

MATH

Most useful MATHEMATICAL equation:
- \( a^2 + b^2 = c^2 \) - Andrea Harris
- \( d = \sqrt{(x^2 - x)^2 + (y^2 - y)^2} \) - Zachary Rumnt
- \( y = mx + b \) - Orlando Salas

HISTORY

Most memorable HISTORICAL figure:
- "Mahatma Gandhi" - Karey Smith, Jr.
- "Madam C.J. Walker" - Tiffany Clark
- "Alexander Hamilton" - Rashun Pearson
Aside from English, what other languages do you speak?

- Mandarin - Syhann Hall
- Spanish - Daizy Juarez
- Bengali - Sayedur Kaim
- Arabic - Sameer Zindani

Your favorite athlete:

- "Serena Williams" - Daniya Meade
- "Michael Jordan" - Marshawn Gray
- "Kobe Bryant" - Quindell Grant
- "Patrick Mahones" - Alexus Walker
“The youngest and the baddest mi untouchable. And if yuh don’t like me, mi nuh like yuh too.”
-Alkaline

“I’m the man with the plans.”
-DMillz

“Black Girl Magic periodtt.”

“Let life play as intended.”

“Black Girl Magic periodtt.”

“I’m the man with the plans.”

“The youngest and the baddest mi untouchable. And if yuh don’t like me, mi nuh like yuh too.”
-Alkaline

“Do your time, you a lame, stop mentionin’ my name... why you worried bout me?”
-Jadakiss

“My parents had expectations for me and I’m checking them off one by one.”

“It will take a nation full of millions to stop me from scoring a goal.”

“They made me change my quote...”

“It will take a nation full of millions to stop me from scoring a goal.”

“They made me change my quote...”

“Everything happens for a reason.”
-Daniel Howell

“Have the courage to exist and try new things”
-Walter Ford

“People come and go so don’t count on them.”

“#BlackExcellence”

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“Have the courage to exist and try new things”
-Walter Ford
"The fact that I'm alive means I've already won."
- Kay Lucid

"For 4 years everyone will broadcast your failures & whisper your success, but Mom & Dad I did this for you."

"The fact that I'm alive means I've already won."
- Kay Lucid

"Once you really know yourself, can't nobody tell you nothing about you."
- Megan Thee Stallion

"Never let your emotions overpower your intelligence."
- Jhené Aiko

"You do what you want when you poppin, and sis you all the way poppin."
- Nicki Minaj

"Stand tall and proud."
- Jhené Aiko

"Just be you."
- Rihanna

"Be who you are and say what you feel because those who mind don't matter and those who matter don't mind."
- Jhené Aiko
“Four years later and I still don’t like y’all.”

“I was innocent coming into high school, now I’m the real Dirty Dan.”

“You have to find the beauty in the struggle in order to succeed.”

“Defeat isn’t a loss.”

“Keep pushing towards your goals.”

“The marathon continues.”

“I guess my final thoughts on this entire experience was ‘why did I do that?’”

“Has he ever talked?”

“You can catch flies with honey, but you can also catch honeys with being fly.”

“I really made it bro.”

“I’ve been training for this my entire life.”

“Insert inspirational quote here.”

“It’s hard being the Young Ma in a school full of Dej Loaf’s but I did it.”

“Maybe I made a mistake yesterday, but yesterday’s me is still me. I am who I am today, with all my faults.”

“You can catch flies with honey, but you can also catch honeys with being fly.”

“I was innocent coming into high school, now I’m the real Dirty Dan.”

“Keep pushing towards your goals.”

“The marathon continues.”

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“Maybe I made a mistake yesterday, but yesterday’s me is still me. I am who I am today, with all my faults.”

“You can catch flies with honey, but you can also catch honeys with being fly.”
"I would rewind time and do it all again."

"I’m known for proving people wrong. Remember that." - Cardi B

"2020 is finally here, time to twirl out."

"There are no regrets in life, just lessons."

"The saddest thing in life is wasted talent."

"Be happy with being you. Love your flaws. And know that you are just as perfect as anyone else." - Ariana Grande

"It has been a very long and stressful 4 years but in the end it’s all worth it."

"At your best you are loved; you’re a positive motivating force within my life" - Aaliyah

"I never had to do too much to get noticed ... Y’all can’t relate though."
ATTENTION GRADUATES:

Today's a good day. Take a chance, want more, be amazing, sing your heart out, be brave, make a difference, touch a soul, move forward, be grateful, cherish little things, believe, stay strong, live well, embrace, and be love. TIME IS NOW.

-Ms. Beckford

To the Class of 2020:
Congratulations making it to this milestone in your life! Unfortunately, you can't celebrate in a traditional manner but you no longer live in a traditional world. I wish you all nothing but health, wellness, success, and blessings. Wherever your path takes you next take it on with passion and determination. Take care of yourself and your families, good luck, and once again congratulations! More high school, no more BCAM just a whole lot of life to live, so live it well, Mrs. Bullock.

-Ms. Scipio

Congratulations Class of 2020! You did it! Now go confidently and change the world. We are counting on you, will lift you up, love you, support you, and do all we can to be kind to others. I wish you all a love always, Ms. Scipo

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-Ms. Scipio
Through it all, we are still #BCAMSTRONG

COVID-19 "CORONAVIRUS"

Essential Workers

More than 500,000 people have been killed by Covid-19. A quarter of them are Americans.

Black Lives Matter Movement
Honor Society
Chess
Model Material
BCAM Dolls
BCAM’s annual Black Excellence Day was held on February 28, 2020. Every year, BCAM students immerse themselves in activities and performances centered around the rich and diverse culture of African Americans. This year, students participated in a full day of career-focused workshops facilitated by people of color and then met with college recruiters. The day ended with student-led performances honoring notable Black figures.
On June 5, 2019, BCAM juniors were chosen to attend the acclaimed Broadway musical “Hamilton”, thanks to the Hamilton Education program through the Gilder Lehrman Institute. Students wrote and performed their own original performance piece inspired by the Founding Era in U.S. History class. Makhi Clemons, Rafael De La Cruz, and Nevaeh Nieves were one of thirteen acts selected to perform on stage during the matinee in front of 1,300 of their peers. It didn’t stop there, the three were also interviewed by a NY1 reporter and their performance was featured on the news!

Students explored the scenic beauty of Prospect Park on a brisk fall day. Mr. Greer led a hike through the historic park and encouraged students to reflect on their peaceful day with nature by completing a journal activity.
PGC RETREAT

Through the Center for Supportive Schools, the Peer Group Connection program (PGC) prepares seniors to create a nurturing environment for incoming freshmen. Once a week, senior peer leaders met with groups of freshmen in outreach sessions designed to strengthen relationships among students across grades. In preparation for their mentorship services, peer leaders attended an overnight camping retreat at the Mohican Outdoor Center in Blairstown, N.J.

Ciao! As part of BCAM’s Globetrotters travel program, students packed their suitcases and with passport in hand, went on an adventurous journey to the beautiful country of Italy. Known for its magnificent and historic architecture, the group visited some of the world’s most famous structures, such as the Leaning Tower of Pisa and the Colosseum. And, of course, they chowed down on authentic Italian cuisine!
MON.
Pajama Day

TUES.
Twin Day

WED.
Jocks vs. Nerds

THURS.
Character Day

FRI.
Gender Bender

BCAM Spirit!
(in school and at home)
It is important for every student to feel supported in creating a college and career plan. We instill a true college-ready culture at BCAM so our students are able to make informed decisions about their postsecondary steps. Students attended various college tours and also participated in college workshops, fairs, and received guidance while navigating the college application process, which culminated in students committing to a college on Decision Day.

From visiting HBCUs...

To attending college fairs and workshops...

and participating in SUNY College tours.

and completing college applications.
We decided, now it's your turn!

DECISION CLASS OF 2020 DAY
I want to shout out to the entire BCAM faculty for making me a good teacher and really taking your time to help us understand our work - Walter E.

I want to shout out to THE CITY for making my last year of high school amazing. Also, for being real friends that tell it like it is. I LOVE ALL OF YOU GIRLS, HONESTLY! I want to thank Keiana for always being there for all four years, even though we didn’t like each other in the beginning. I also want to thank India for being the person I can go to in order to calm down and talk out my feelings with. To Tinellia and Erin, thank you for making me laugh on my worst days. I appreciate it. To Deja, Brianna, Ashanti and Shynny, I wish we were closer than the 120th grade because in this short amount of time, I’ve realized that you’re all cool and fun people to be around. We’re all truly meant to be friends for a lifetime. - Dinyon H.

I want to say thank you to everyone who helped me out from the very beginning of freshmen year to senior year of high school. Thank you to the teachers who have watched me grow and improve on my skills and believe in myself. Thank you to my wonderful friends who have helped me during my good and bad times and been there for me. Thank you and WE are class of 2020!! - Daizy J.

I want to thank Mr. Murray for being my math teacher; I believe he has made me grow as a student in BCAM. - Kayla C.

I want to thank my friends Nevaeh, Jeda and Walter, who became like family to me and I love y’all so much. We’ve only known each other for like a year or two and it feels like we’ve known each other for a much longer time. We’ve made so many memories and this is not the stop of it either. - Daniya M.

Ms. Murray, thank you for always believing in me, even when I didn’t believe in myself. Love you forever and always. - Janelia G.

I want to shout out to all the great young women I’ve made bonds with. Y’all already know it’s the CITY. I know y’awl are gonna do great things in life and I can’t wait to be there for all of it PERIOD! - India H.

I want to thank Ms. Murray for being my being my friend and helping me find my way in this life. I appreciate you guys so much. Thank you for making my senior year the most. It was my whole high school experience. - Johanna L.

I want to thank my teachers! To My Math teacher, Ms. Ashanti, for making me better as a student in BCAM. - Melissia M.}

I want to thank you all the teachers who have been here since my freshman year until my senior year and seeing me develop as a person - Justin B.

I want to thank Mr. Murray for being an amazing teacher and giving us life lessons for ever beyond the classroom - Raina B.

I would like to thank all my teachers and peers. You taught me so many things, and I am extremely grateful. - Tammy A.

I want to thank all of my friends who were there for me during the hard times. I will forever remember all that was done for me. Thank you, Mrs. Murray, for helping me for four years in high school; your hard work will forever be recognized. - Jocelyn A.

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I want to thank Ms. Murray for keeping me on track and helping me down for the past two years. I love you ma. - Jahnique R.

I want to thank Ms. Murray for helping me make the highest grade in school so easy. We miss you - Talazia J.

I want to thank Ms. Murray for everything she’s done. No matter how much she has on her plate, she finds a way to make time for you. She’s my whole heart. - Makhi C.

I just want to say a big shout-out to the only people who’ve stuck by me these last 4 years, but also to the new friends I’ve made this year, I truly wish we connected earlier on as I feel you are really good friends and I’m happy you have my life. I love you all. - Vanity G.

I want to shout out to my real all friends! - Toni Ann W.

I want to shout out to all the people that have made me become a better person over the years that I’ve been in this school. You guys made coming to school a lot more interesting and just made me feel a lot happier. To the bonds that have gotten stronger, thank you, and I appreciate you. You have left something in me that will help me grow in life. The jokes, laughs, smiles, tears, and care will never be forgotten. To everyone else, I hope we live our dreams and don’t forget everything that happened in BCAM - Erin M.

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I want to thank Mr. Murray for being my being my friend and helping me find my way in this life. I appreciate you guys so much. Thank you for making my senior year the most. It was my whole high school experience overall great. I appreciate all of y’all - Keiana H.

Shout out to Ms. Murray for being my math teacher, giving me extra help and pushing me to do better so I can pass my math test. - Damani T.

Shout out to Shout-out to Ms. Sahar for being an amazing teacher and giving us life lessons for ever beyond the classroom - Raina B.

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Congratulations Class of 2020!