

Memorable Advice for Seniors

Abilene High School graduates will receive their diplomas on Sunday, May 18th at 1:30pm. Following the usual speeches, traditional tossing of the mortar board hats, and rounds of graduation parties, 115 young adults will move on the next phase of their lives.

It's a time to offer both congratulations and some words of wisdom, too. After a little searching on the internet, I discovered a collection of 10 memorable and significant graduation quotes used by commencement speakers in the past:

1. *"Wherever you go,
go with all your heart."*
Confucius
2. *"Do not follow where the path may lead. Go, instead, where there is no path,
and leave a trail."* Ralph Waldo Emerson
3. *"Always be a first-rate version
of yourself,
instead of a second-rate version
of somebody else."* Judy Garland
4. *"Be who you are, and say what you feel, because those who mind don't matter,
and those who matter don't mind."* Dr. Seuss
5. *"If you aren't fired with enthusiasm, you will be fired with enthusiasm."* Vince Lombardi
6. *"There are no shortcuts to any place worth going."* Beverly Sills
7. *"It is the mark
of an educated mind
to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it."* Aristotle
8. *"Success is the ability to go from one failure to another with no loss of
enthusiasm."* Winston Churchill
9. *"We know what we are,
but know not what we may be."* William Shakespeare

Hamlet
(Act IV, Scene 5)
10. *Turn your wounds into wisdom. You will be wounded many times in your life.
You'll make mistakes. Some people will call them failures but I have learned that
failure is really God's way of saying, "Excuse me, you're moving in the wrong
direction." It's just an experience, just an experience.* Oprah Winfrey, 1997
(Adapted list by Linda Ann Nickerson on Yahoo! 5/12/08)

On a personal note, I'd like to encourage our graduates to become lifelong learners, to pursue their passions with enthusiasm, to consider their choices with care, and to be true to themselves. Congratulations to all and best wishes on your continued journey!!!