

My Alma Mater
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The rite of passage...high school graduation...and in the Huntington Beach Union High School District, it is clearly at the core of our mission. Sitting on the graduation stage, I am always honored and proud to look out and see our amazing smartly robed graduates, as well as the excited and energetic families lending their support with an affirming, “We love you Allison!”

This past June, I was reminded time and again by each end-of-year student speech and acceptance of a diploma, that our graduates, while thrilled to be heading on to a new journey, also found an immediate love for their high school years. I suppose in perfect honesty, while in high school I also couldn’t wait to “get out” and start what was next. I watched both of my own children have that same “what’s next” focus as they completed their high school years. But there is something special about our high school adventures that once we walk across that stage and receive the fruit of all the homework, essays, solving for “X,” and exams we immediately find a longing to return to those very same hallways and classrooms...yes, it was a special time.

While our seniors will not return to light up our classrooms, athletic fields, and artistic stages, they have a bigger purpose, and they know it! The very same speeches that acknowledged their fondness for their new alma mater had a distinct passion for becoming the next generation of leaders who will change our world. And while “changing the world” seems to be such an ambitious statement, having met these students and their talented teachers, the statement becomes much more a destined fact of what’s to come. HBUHSD is so very proud of our graduates, and as we look around at both our community and our country, we see our alumni as engaged adults who are leading our future and the future of this year’s freshman class...for the Class of 2018 that graduation stage seems at such a distance, but I can’t wait to hear of their accomplishments along that rich high school journey and to hear their professed love for high school!