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To students: Embrace future

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Fremont Ross HS graduates 295 students; each has own path

FREMONT -- Cherish the memories of childhood and embrace the future and its opportunities, five Fremont Ross High School graduates told their classmates Sunday during graduation.

Although some graduates might feel dejected to leave their friends, their home and their comfort zone, they have a chance to meet new people, learn new things and make the world a better place, Michael Yuhas said during the ceremony at Don Paul Stadium.

The 295 graduates have different futures. Some will enter the workforce, while others will attend college or enlist in the military.

"Although our paths are diverging, we are all connected," Yuhas said. "This new beginning is not really a new beginning but a continuation of what we are. Let us make mistakes, not just to screw up but to learn from them.

"Actions speak louder than words. Live accordingly."

Erica Meek said graduates should make room for new experiences and personal growth to widen their beliefs and views. They will leave the relative safety of school to pursue new goals and meet new challenges, she said.

"Now it is time to truly discover who we are," she said.

Brittney Gnepper reminded her classmates to be true to themselves and defy those who tell them they can't fulfill their dreams.

Seth Zeiter told them to keep the same spirit they had on graduation day. Feeling they can make a difference in the world and take on challenges will help them achieve their goals, he said.

Class president Alayna Dorobek compared the graduates to an apple. Although the skin is shiny, what matters most is the core, which contains the seeds, she said.

The seeds are the hope for the future, and the graduates' heart and potential are the seeds, she said.

"It is up to us to determine if our seeds will root themselves into something stronger, greater and more beautiful than the apple itself," she said. "I hope you live a life you are proud of. If you're not, I hope you find the strength to start over."

Yuhas, Meek, Gnepper, Zeiter and Dorobek were the top five academic students in the class of 2009.

After the speeches, the graduates -- women in white robes and men in purple -- threw their caps into the air, signifying the end of their high school years.

Blanca Navarro, 19, said she plans to join the Army and specialize in nursing. She said she was happy to graduate and was looking forward to her career.

"The future begins," she said.

Kodie Stout, 18, said he is excited to attend Vincennes University in Indiana to major in bowling management. He said he was thrilled to get his diploma.

"It's the most important part and seeing all your friends for the last time," he said. "It's amazing. It's actually 18 years we've worked for it."



Fremont Ross seniors enter Don Paul Stadium/Harmon Field during the processional of the 143rd annual commencement ceremony on Sunday. (Photos by Jennifer Young-Bower | News-Messenger co)



Marc Glotzbecker presents diplomas during commencement on Sunday afternoon.