



Principal's Convocation Address

Kildonan-East Collegiate – Class of 2026

Dear graduates, families, friends, and the incredible staff of Kildonan-East Collegiate,

Convocation is a day of celebration; a day we've all been waiting for. Although, if I'm being honest, some of your teachers might feel like they've been waiting *just a little bit longer* than the rest of us.

But truly, it is an honour to stand before you as we celebrate this important milestone.

For some of you sitting here today, I have had the privilege of being your principal for 13 years. Thirteen years! I have known you since you were very small humans; some of you barely tall enough to reach the water fountain, and now here you are, somehow taller than me and ready to take on the world.

I have watched you grow, learn, stumble, get back up, and become the incredible young people you are today. It has been one of the greatest honours of my career to be part of your journey.

And what a journey it has been!

You are graduating into a world that is constantly changing. It can be exciting, but it can also feel uncertain. There will be moments when things are difficult, when the path ahead isn't clear, or when you're asked to face challenges you didn't see coming.

But here's what I know about you: you can do hard things!

You are resilient. You've already proven that; through assignments you didn't think you'd finish, exams you didn't think you'd pass, and mornings you definitely didn't think you'd wake up on time for. And yet, here you are.

As you move forward, I ask you to carry with you the values that make the world better. Be kind. Be generous. Be accepting. Keep an open mind. We are living in a time when people are sometimes judged or even treated unfairly simply for being who they truly are. You have the power to be different, to choose understanding over judgement, compassion over division, and acceptance over fear. The world needs people who create space for others to be their authentic selves.

Today is also the perfect moment to recognize the people who have supported you every step of the way, especially your parents and guardians. They have been your first teachers, your biggest supporters, and the ones who have cheered you on through every success and stood by you through every challenge. They have given you guidance, encouragement, and probably a few reminders along the way that you didn't always appreciate at the time.



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So graduates, please take a moment to thank them. This milestone belongs to them as well.

And while today you may feel like you've got everything figured out, and you've certainly come a long way, I'm going to gently remind you of something: you don't know everything yet. None of us do. So continue to listen to and respect the people who have brought you this far. Their advice, their experiences, and yes, even their occasional lectures, will continue to matter more than you might realize right now.

I also want to extend that gratitude to your teachers, educational assistants, and all of the staff here at Kildonan-East Collegiate. These are the people who encouraged you, supported you, and occasionally reminded you, more than once, that deadlines actually do matter.

To our staff: thank you for your dedication, your patience, and your belief in these students, even on the days when they tested that patience just a little bit.

Graduates, I encourage you to take risks. Try things that feel a little scary. Step outside your comfort zone. And when you fail, and you will fail, because that's part of life, accept it with grace. Failure is not something to avoid, it is something to learn from. Some of the best lessons come from the moments that didn't go as planned.

You don't need to have everything figured out today. Despite what people may ask you over the next few weeks, it is completely okay to say, "I'm still figuring it out." In fact, most adults are still figuring it out too. We're just better at pretending.

Go out and see the world. Expand your worldview. Learn from different people, cultures, and experiences. The more you understand the world, the more thoughtfully you can contribute to it.

And as you go, remember your responsibilities. Be good stewards of the land. Care for the environment. Advocate for justice. Stand up for those who are facing challenges or who need support. Use your voice, not just loudly, but wisely.

Graduates, you are ready.

Even if it doesn't always feel that way, you are prepared for what comes next. You carry with you the lessons, the friendships, and the experiences that have shaped you here at Kildonan-East Collegiate.

We will miss you; your laughter, your energy, and yes, even your creative interpretations of "appropriate hallway behaviour." You have left your mark on this school, and your presence has made it better.

I wish you all the very best as you move forward. Take risks. Be kind. Stay curious. And remember, **Once a Reiver, always a Reiver! Go out and make us proud! Congratulations, Class of 2026!**