

Letter to my Seniors,

By now hopefully the shock or celebration of no more face to face instruction is setting in. I just want to write I letter to all the seniors and remind you guys how resilient you are. I won't start all the way back to 6th grade but let's start at your Freshman year. You all worked so hard because all the upperclassmen said if we don't make it to State it's because of the freshman. You had no idea what they really meant or what marching band was really about. But you did it! The sweat, the hot sun, and the crazy hours before the first day of school. Now jump forward to area that year. Sitting up in the stands at Area and listening for your name to be one of the top 4. It wasn't! Remember that feeling of "why and we worked so hard"? Remember that feeling of "It should have been us! "? Now fast forward to your Junior year. All of you saying if we don't make it to state its because of the freshman. Mmmm. History repeats itself! Because you remember what is was like you helped the freshman. Then Edna Marching Contest! Remember the feeling when we won! Not just best 4A but the whole thing! The WHOLE THING! Now Remember that feeling. Jump to 2 weeks later Area Finals waiting for our name to be called! It wasn't! What????? It can't happen again! We deserve to be at State! We worked so hard! Remember that feeling! Remember the sway of emotions. Then jump to senior year! Ones in marching but better than that Sugar Bowl and the Mighty Spartan Band winning again. This time on a national level!!! Remember that feeling not so long ago!

Now here we are!

But where are we really? We are at a place of feelings and the unknown. What will graduation look like, what about my last semester as a senior with all my friends? Nothing I can say will take any of this away. But this letter isn't about that! This letter is to remind you that not everything has always gone your way. You have been taught that even though you work hard you don't always win. But what happens when you don't win? You move on! Because, YOU not winning doesn't take away who you are. It just makes us look at things differently the next time and sets us up for even better things. This is just another point in life that is not what you want, not how you wanted it to turn out! But what does that mean for you 2 years from now! Hopefully nothing but a memory. Hopefully 2 years from now you are pursuing your dreams doing what you really want because today and in this moment is just a moment. It's all the moments in life and how we deal with them that defines us as an individual. Its moments that make memories that teach us how to move on and deal with life!

You have already proven to me you all are winners! I am proud to have you as the senior class of 2020. I am proud to say go forward and be the best you can be. I am sad that it must be this way. I am sad as I write this letter! I am devastated not to be able to make music with you again. But I look at what we have done, and I smile! You are strong and you will survive this! I remember all the good and bad. I Thank God I was your director for all those years, and I look forward to what you will become. This is not goodbye! This is, I will see you later! Don't ever give up because even though life gets hard you will get back up! Always look for what is to come! The next moment and the next big step in life! You define who you are and no one else! Go forward be the best you can be and hold your heads up high because I do know you were and always will be part of the Mighty Spartan Band. "With Pride"

With love and respect,

Mr. Rodriguez

Rod Rodriguez