

Good afternoon graduates, family, and friends.

We have discussed our student's ability to face adversity, find resilience, and discover their grit by digging deep over the last several years, and when I reflect on this class, the same can be said for you. There have been times when many of you have questioned your path, purpose and ability to move forward and find your way. It reminds me of a page from the book, *The Boy, the mole, the fox and the Horse*, by Charlie Mackesy, when the little boy says, "I can't see a way through", "can you see your next step?" [asked the horse] "yes" [said the boy], "just take that," said the horse. Each day you took that next step, finding your footing, forging a path against many odds, and now I look out upon you and I see artists, mechanics, scientists, musicians, comedians, humanitarians, health care providers, teachers, and so much more.

This class is comprised of unique and wonderful individuals, and your absence will certainly be felt. In the fall I tasked this class with redefining leadership within our walls, you rose to the occasion and set the bar high, back in its rightful place. The foundation that you have created at Red Land for your peers, will carry you through the next chapters of your unwritten book. As you transition into the next phase, of your future, please indulge me one last time by allowing me to provide a few more words of wisdom from *The Boy, the mole, the fox and the Horse*;

*"Asking for help isn't giving up," said the horse. "It's refusing to give up."*

So, I implore you to look for the helpers.

*"The greatest illusion," said the mole, "is that life should be perfect."*

I ask that you find daily positives and cherish the little moments, as they become the big ones.

*"What is that over there?" [asked the boy] "It's the wild," said the mole. "Don't fear it."*

I encourage you to continue to take the next step.

It is with great pride and pleasure that I now present the 2022 Red Land High School graduating class to Dr. Stoltz and Mr. Guistwhite, as I declare these graduates of the class of 2022 have met all requirements for graduation outlined by West Shore School District Policy and criteria set forth by the Pennsylvania Department of Education - including required subjects and total credits. They are therefore entitled to receive a Red Land High School diploma from the West Shore School District. Congratulations.