



## 2021 Valedictorian/Salutatorian Words of Wisdom

*We asked our valedictorians and salutatorians to give us their best piece of advice for incoming freshmen. Here is what they had to say.*

- Do something you don't want to do every single day.
- Never take anything for granted, and enjoy the little things.
- Just keep smiling for yourself and for all the other people in your life - any day and every day.
- Ask for help.
- Freshman year matters and you should pay attention and try your hardest, even if it is a little bit different than middle school.
- Try new things - don't be afraid - and stay positive.
- Talk to as many people as you want and don't be shy to make new friends.
- Freshman year matters and it's easier to start with a good base than to play catch-up later in life.
- You're never too cool to try something new.
- Don't forget to enjoy your time because it doesn't last forever.
- Don't procrastinate on your schoolwork.
- If you make a mistake, and you feel like you've given up your chance on something, don't be afraid to get up and try again.
- If something comes at the cost of your physical or mental health and wellbeing, it's not worth it - take care of yourself.
- Take one day at a time, it's good to look at the big picture, but if you can do one small thing once a day it makes all the difference.
- Have fun, too.
- Take more classes than just ones that will look good on your transcript. You're high school students - have a good time!
- It's ok to not know what you're doing because you'll figure it out along the way.
- Don't fall behind.
- I know society pressures us a lot to look a certain way and do things a certain way, but the most important thing is to be yourself, have a good time, and learn to love yourself along the way.
- Really have fun with high school, learn a lot, and do the fun extracurricular things after school.
- Say "yes" to every single opportunity.
- Start thinking about all of the opportunities as early as you can freshman year.
- Find your group of friends and stick with them.
- Develop a support system and lean on them.
- Focus on healthy habits and take care of yourself.
- Email your counselors
- Spend time with your friends instead of worrying too much about grades.
- Work hard and stay true to yourself.
- Find activities you're interested in and get involved.
- Find a good work-life balance and exercise - it's a great stress reliever.



## 2021 Valedictorian/Salutatorian Words of Wisdom

- Set achievable goals.
- Do a lot of clubs - I made a lot of friends that way.
- Challenge yourself because you don't want to look back with regrets.
- Enjoy your time, don't waste it! Go to things, go to dances.
- Get involved with the school outside of the classroom, go to dances and events so you can make your time worth it.
- Make sure you have a good balance between school and social life.
- Lean on your teachers - they're there to help you.
- Don't let failures keep you from succeeding. You can always come back and work hard and that's more important than any of the temporary failures in your life.
- Use a planner and be organized.
- Reach out to people if you need them.
- Trata cosas nuevas y seas cómodo con ser incómodo. (Try new things and be comfortable with being uncomfortable.)
- Participate in whatever it is you're interested in - find your people, do what you want to. If you don't participate, you're not going to be happy at the end of the four years.
- Work hard early on.
- Take a lot of risks and step outside of your comfort zone.
- Find good friends.
- Work hard, but make sure to take time for yourself.
- Take each day one step at a time.
- Join Marching Band!
- Get involved, stay involved, and try new things.
- Get involved in clubs and other extracurriculars.
- Take fun electives.
- Make the most out of it and just have fun!
- All limitations are self-imposed and you can do anything you set your mind to.
- Be confident!
- Challenge yourself and step outside of your comfort zone, but also don't overwhelm yourself trying to be perfect.
- Don't be afraid to ask for help.

Many thanks to all of you! Congratulations and best wishes for a bright and successful future!

*proud to be* **HSD**