

Life Lessons for Graduates

Hats off to the Class of 2023! We'd like to celebrate our graduates and their milestone achievement! As my oldest daughter graduates Waconia High School today, I have her in mind as I share these life lessons for graduates.

1. *Volunteer and give back.* Take the time along your journey to learn about yourself. Give your time and talents to organizations that need your help. Leadership experience could lead you to your next job.
2. *Work in hospitality at least once in your life.* It teaches you hard work and customer service. Several years ago an executive of Best Buy once shared a story with me about how their highest performing talent all had different backgrounds and educational experiences. However, they all shared a common thread of all having been a server or bartender once in their lives.
3. *Understand personal finance.* Take a class and study how to budget. Do not spend more than you have and set goals of what you want to achieve.
4. *Study Abroad.* Meet friends from around the world and understand perspectives from a global view.
5. *Support local.* Write a positive review. Give a compliment. Work within your budget, you don't have to spend a lot. The simple things make a big difference.
6. *Never stop learning new things.*
7. *Challenge yourself.* Do the hard things and go outside of your comfort zone. "If it doesn't challenge you, it doesn't change you." Fred DeVito
8. *Make connections and meet new people.*
9. *Embrace Change.* It's okay to change your mind about school, career, life, etc. If you make a wrong decision, just make another new decision. "Whatever you choose for a career path, remember the struggles along the way are only meant to shape you for your purpose." Chadwick Boseman
10. *Believe you can!* Have confidence and don't say "can't."

Congratulations and best wishes on all that lies ahead, graduates! **-Christine**