

# THE COMMUNITY SCHOOL



**Jordan Leon**  
**End of Year Ceremony**  
**June 9, 2019**

How is everyone doing today? I appreciate you all for coming out and seeing this amazing class. I honestly have no idea where to start. Over the past four years here at TCS, I have grown so much as a person, brother, and as a leader. I remember the first time I ever walked into the school, I didn't know what I was getting myself into. I thought TCS would be just like any other high school, but when I saw the building, I was so confused. "Is this even a school?" I asked myself.

Coming out of middle school, I was not the brightest, or smartest guy. I came as a child, knowing practically nothing, besides sports. I couldn't do simple math, and I was certain that I could not complete high school. But I was totally wrong. One reason is because of the amount of work we got. I was capable of doing way more work than I thought I was able to do. Now, some of you will say that it was a lot, which some nights it was, but I still got it done. It just took me a little longer than other students. This is not to brag or anything, but I believe I had one of the best homework records in the past four years then anyone else. (For continuing students, PLEASE DO YOUR WORK!)

During my four years here, I had times where I thought I was no longer going to be a student at The Community School. Without getting into those situations, I did get through them because of the amazing support system I have. That support system includes my mother, grandmother, both dads, Donald, Mr. Don, Mr. Noah, Mr. Tom, and so many other people. (You should know who you are, if not, feel free to ask). Without these people, I honestly don't know where I would be. This group of people, as well as the people I did not mention, are so amazing each in their own ways. They all bring something different to my life. My mother gives me the emotional and goofy side of me. My grandmother gave me the organization and cleaning skills I have. (Speaking of that, if you need any cleaning or anything, I am available this summer, but not for free.). Of course, I get the sports addiction from my fathers. Donald, you already know what's up. We have known each other since the seventh grade. We both have grown so much as a people and I hope to continue our brotherhood for many years to come. Mr. Don gave me the skills to write about my feelings, but also things that are totally out of the blue. Mr. Noah and I have known each other for three years now. He has not just been a teacher, but he has also been a great role model.

And for Mr. Tom. Oh boy. I for sure don't know where to start. Mr. Tom is like a third father to me, but as well for many other kids too. (Am I wrong?) Starting from day one at the school, Mr. Tom has always been there for me. He was there through all the good and bad times. He has taught me everything I need to know in life. He has turned me from a little, immature kid, to a young-adult. Don't get me wrong, I still can be immature sometimes, but that's just me. We have made so many memories together. The memory that I will never forget was in my first year. Mr. Tom had to use the bathroom. As soon as he left the room, (Don't ask me why), I crawled underneath Mr. Tom's desk, and waited for him to get back. As soon as he got back, I tickled his knee. "OH JESUS!" he yelled. I honestly don't know why I did that. Anyways, Mr. Tom is an amazing guy. I will pick Mr. Tom over the Ravens any day. Some of you might think I'm lying, but I really would. I love you Mr. Tom.

I always told Mr. Tom that I am never leaving the school until he leaves. Yes, I know that I can't stay here as a student, but I will always be a part of the school. This school has given me so many opportunities, like meeting new people and classmates. I wouldn't have gotten those chances anywhere else.

Speaking of classmates, I've seen great improvement in all of you. You all have the potential to keep this school running and making a difference in this world. Donald, don't get mad because I know you heard this like a million times, but you all have to "Keep the Faith." You all have experienced difficult times in and outside of the school. You might be dealing with problems, but you have to keep pushing. You need to keep fighting and pushing for the things you want to accomplish. You need to start your day off every morning by making your bed. Keep the faith. Thank you for being amazing classmates.

The Community School is where I spent 12 or more hours every day. Mr. Tom always said that the littlest things mean a lot and that is absolutely true. I would like to end my speech with the quote Ray Lewis gave when he announced his retirement. "Everything that starts, has an end."

I love you all. Thank you.