

Mark Twain said, “The two most important days in your life are the day you are born and the day you find out why.” The why can only be uncovered through defining moments. Defining moments, are points in your life when you're urged to make a pivotal decision when you experience something that fundamentally changes you.

Graduates your lifetime will be filled with defining moments. Tonight is one of them. Many more are on your horizon, like finding your future career, building relationships with friends and future partners, traveling, having children, and even celebrating a night like tonight with those children.

The Class of 2022 advisors, Mrs. Alcaro, Mrs. Carickhoff, Mrs. Fuller, and I want to take a few moments to recognize and celebrate you. We want to recognize how you embraced and grew from these defining moments in your time at Quakertown High School. We want to share with the administration, family, and friends how proud we are of all that you accomplished over the last four years.

Your first moment began before you even arrived at QCHS. After the merge of Milford and Strayer, Class of 2022, you seized the moment to make new friendships build great teams, and unify the middle schools into one class of Quakertown Panthers. As a unified class, you entered the halls with enthusiasm and energy. The freshman year was filled with exploring new clubs, joining sports, attending tech school, and learning where you fit in at the senior high school. Class of 2022 you created a community.

But in life, we don't usually get to choose the time of our defining moments. We just have to stand and face them when they come, no matter what sort of a state we're in. These are the words of the author, Darren Shan. His words are relevant because your sophomore year

was unlike any other, a two-week break turned into months of quarantine and new changes. Although challenging and uncertain, this defining moment gave you an opportunity to show everyone how strong you really were. You persevered through challenges, learned new skills, and used your ideas and imagination to survive in a new uncertain environment. Like Darren Shan, you stood and faced these moments, embraced opportunities, and persevere through challenges. Class of 2022, you amazed and inspired us with your dedication.

Junior year, you again entered these halls, excited with a new understanding and appreciation for school, found new ways to get involved, adapted to ever-changing guidelines, and again you embraced the moment. You created ways to meet with clubs, mastered the google meet, continued to build your academic future, and became the role models for the underclassmen.

Junior year in another defining moment, your class council was faced with a decision that would impact all and disappoint many. But at that moment they chose the hard path of compassion, putting others above themselves to rebuild the traditions and community of the school. You gave up your prom to ensure that the senior class was able to have theirs. This defining moment solidified the character of this class.

Seniors, as you sit here, soon to be graduates, you are being celebrated as the class who took every opportunity to embrace your defining moments and build a memorable year which included a roaring spirit section that cheered our Panthers to the playoffs, a homecoming dance with over a thousand students in attendance, our traditional Thanksgiving pep rally, the return of senior trip, and a well-deserved senior prom. You even planned new experiences, a

sunrise parking lot tailgate so well attended that teachers had to park in the student lot, I am sure that was not intentional.

Class, I will share one more quote from the movie Tin Cup,

“When a defining moment comes along, you define the moment, or the moment defines you.”

Class of 2022 we celebrate you for defining the moment !