

ISF Graduation Welcome Address: "This day is about you and what you have achieved"  
by Dr Dirk Lehmann

13 June 2020

Good morning!

On behalf of the ISF Administration, Faculty, and Staff, I welcome you all to our 2020 Commencement Ceremony.

Here we are, guys! We made it!

While most of you have probably never been in school on a Saturday, for some of you, this has been a regular occurrence, be it for Make ups, or Retakes, or Saturday Detentions.

It is a great pleasure for me to welcome you today to celebrate ISF's graduating Class of 2020!

You truly are making history:

You are the first ever grade in CollegeBoard history to have all AP exams online.

You are the first ever grade in over 50 years of the IBO to have their IB exams cancelled.

And you also are the largest ever graduating class in ISF history!

I can tell you that to participate in this joyful, momentous occasion is one of the best parts of my job.

This day is about you and what you've achieved through hard work, dedication, and determination.

Graduation is a time to imagine your future and your place the world to come. When you think of the road ahead, you may gain perspective by looking back to where you've been.

And I hope that when you look back on your time at ISF, you will do so with fondness

As part of the world-wide ISF Family, you will always be welcome here, and we look forward to hearing about your personal and professional achievements as you build on the foundation provided by your ISF education.

As you begin the next stage in your life and experience, you can be confident that you **can** and that you **will** make a difference, because like the ISF graduates who have gone before you, you possess the knowledge and skills you need to shape your future.

This is usually the part of the welcome address where the speaker shows his intellectual superiority by sharing some deep words of wisdom or an inspirational quote to send the Graduates off into the world.

And now, I am going to do the same. For this purpose, I selected a few lines from Dr. Seuss:

"Congratulations!

Today is your day.

You're off to Great Places!

You're off and away!

You have brains in your head.

You have feet in your shoes.

You can steer yourself any direction you choose."

It has been an honor and a privilege to spend these past years with you as your Academic Coordinator!

Thank you for the memories!

Congratulations, Class of 2020, and my very best wishes to you all!