

Class Gift Speech - Adam Bennett '22

Imagine yourself twenty years from this moment. The year is twenty forty-two, and most of us are nearly forty years old. Hopefully, gas prices have gone down and Tom Brady is still the quarterback of the Bucs. Regardless of what the world may look like in twenty years, we all will have fond memories of our time here at Berkeley. I can't help but wonder, what legacy we, the Class of 2022, leave for the Berkeley community?

The famous modern-day poet and artist Lin Manuel Miranda once eloquently proclaimed that legacy is "planting seeds in a garden you never get to see." The seeds we have planted here will continue to sprout because of this amazing class gift we present today. As we sit as a class together one final time, I reminisce on our journey. Times may have been uncertain, but through it all, we have embodied the meaning of persistence and growth, while expanding our potential as a united class. We demonstrate our support of each other, through the unexpected challenge of a pandemic, the rigor of AP classes, the thrill of opening nights, and the rise and fall of emotions between the playoff wins and losses. We are the class that has planted seeds and deeply rooted our legacy on this very campus.

The exceptional and insightful Dr. Michelle Barrett once informed me that "when we leave something behind, we acknowledge that we were here." Hearing her words, I think about what we as a class leave behind. I asked many of you how you would define our class, and you all responded with resounding praise of our diversity, determination, and unity. Let this final gift we give as a class symbolize everything we were here, of the example we set. Our gift of four thousand one hundred forty-nine dollars to the Berkeley Alumni Endowed Scholarship Fund will pave a path for students here at Berkeley, who will one day leave a legacy of their own.

Class of 2022, this is our moment, but with it comes a challenge. In this next chapter, how will we continue to build upon this legacy while honoring our time here at Berkeley? A lot can and will happen in the next twenty years, but I can assure you, class, that our garden will be blooming. Berkeley Preparatory School and Headmaster Seivold, I am honored to present to you this gift on behalf of the diverse, determined, and unified class of two-thousand twenty-two.