

## **Letter to the Class of 2020**

**From Rick Meehan '69W**

I'm humbled that I have been asked to send a message to the graduating Class of 2020 at Wilbraham & Monson Academy.

Just over 50 years ago I was experiencing many of the same concerns and feelings that you are experiencing now. Certainly, I did not have to deal with a hideous virus that is ravaging our country and robbing you all of enjoying the last couple of months at Wilbraham & Monson Academy with close friends, faculty and staff. For many of you it has been four years or more and for others something less than four years. But please know that all of you will carry with you forever the Wilbraham & Monson memories that are in you. The learning experiences at WMA will indeed stay with you. Believe me they will. Wilbraham Academy, as it was known back in 1969, prepared and put me in a place where I could go forward into the then unknown, ever-changing world. For me it was off to college and then into the real world on my own. You will have, I suspect, some of the same experiences that I had back in 1969. Certainly the world that I lived in then and the one we live in now are very different. The unknown going forward will indeed be coming for you but please know that you have been given a great head start at WMA. It will prove invaluable as you make so many future decisions.

I could go on and on but please know that after 50 years of life's experiences, I still credit the many fine teachers and coaches at Wilbraham for preparing me for my life's journey; and if I could reach out and touch them now, I would simply say "thank you" and "God Bless you all for helping me." So, to all of the 2020 WMA graduating class, go forward in these tough times, be safe and thank your family for all that they have done for you. Tell those teachers, coaches and staff thank you for all they did for you.

Best and warmest regards to you,

Rick Meehan '69W