A pleasant morning to everyone. We have gathered here today to honor the 2019-2020 graduating class. I am Jalie Maeve C. Dionaldo, and I am grateful to have the opportunity to speak today. First and foremost, on behalf of our batch, I would like to welcome you to the commencement ceremony for the batch 2019-2020 of STI Cubao Senior High School. I would also like to thank all my friends, family, and parents who came here to celebrate and congratulate their sons and daughters for their utmost love and support, as well as the faculty and school officials of STI Cubao for their patience and guidance; We genuinely owe you, our future. We would not be who we are today if it were not for your teachings and guidance.

Most of us are already in our third year of college, so I hope it is not too late to deliver this speech. These past few years have been challenging, as we are all aware. Our class has experienced a variety of educational settings, ranging from traditional classes to distance learning. Two years ago, the pandemic robbed us of a significant turning point in our lives and events we had anticipated for years. There are no formal farewells to professors or classmates, no graduation ceremony, no graduation ball, and no first-year college experience, to name a few. Our batch feels empty. But today, finally, we're fortunate to have had a face-to-face graduation ceremony, so thank you STI for this chance.

During Senior Highschool, I learn a lot about myself. I meet new people that can create friendships that will last a lifetime. I have the opportunity to meet notable teachers that can become the biggest mentors in my life and direct me into my future with guidance. Throughout my Senior High School experience, I have learned that my time here builds the foundation for my morals and work ethic later in life. High school is a time to find out who you are, what you're capable of, and what you envision yourself to be as a college student or young adult in the workplace.

I used to say, "I can't do this; it's hard to do." a lot. Since I'm known for my hard work, I'm afraid of making a mistake that will make people judge me. I did well in school, not because I am intelligent, but because I am a good student. I've experienced poor grades. The research paper our group worked on failed and was turned down. But I'm grateful I have a group that didn't give up; rather, we became even stronger as a result. By experiencing the agony of rejection rather than ignoring it, we may be better prepared to continue pursuing our goals. Saying that intelligence predicts excellent marks is not the same as claiming that those with good grades are unquestionably smarter or that getting poor grades indicates you are necessarily slower. You can be a genius without ever submitting any homework. However, intelligence is not everything. Always remember, if you really want to do something, you can do anything. To face your worries, all you need is some work, some time, and some determination.

According to Louisa May Alcott, an American novelist from her book Little Women “I am not afraid of storms for I am learning how to sail my ship.” Most individuals dislike being outside during storms. For a person learning to sail, this presents extra difficulties. We must realize that failure is always a possibility in all we do. Not only is seizing this opportunity and embracing it bravely, but it also gives us a more meaningful experience.

We have gained countless experiences that no one can take away. I'm confident that we'll all take away valuable lessons from these experiences and remember the strong friendships we formed amongst ourselves.

I wish you all the best as we embark on the next chapter of our lives, whether it is college or the workplace. I have no words to explain how grateful I am to people who have supported us along the way. I consider you all to be part of my family. I'd like to welcome everybody to today's commencement.

Thank you.