

Comments Given at Gateway College Preparatory School Graduation

Georgetown, Texas

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By Richard Norman Rickey

Ten years ago I was sitting at a Gateway College Preparatory School graduation just like you are this afternoon. That year my son was graduating from this school, part of the first graduation class in our school's history. For that hour I was not the Founder of this school, I was a proud parent. I am happy to report, 10 years after that graduation day, I now know with certainty that my child, forever a proud Gator, was more than adequately equipped by this school to be a significant person. But it wasn't the physical school, it was the adults in our school that helped me raise my son. I am forever grateful for that one special faculty member who took a special interest in my son, helped him with a subject he really struggled with, and went to many of his basketball and baseball games.

For you see, I am grateful for the freedom to choose the school that was the right fit for my children. I hope you feel the same.

But school choice is not guaranteed. What was granted to us parents with a new Texas state law in 1995, creating public charter schools, is under constant assault from the school choice haters. They don't want you and I to have a choice. They want to force our children to attend the public school we are assigned based on our address.

If you are a parent, grandparent, or other relative of a graduate here today, and you want to protect a parents right to choose this school, or another quality charter school, please join me in my crusade to keep and grow this option. On your program is a link to my personal web site: Richardrickey.com. Subscribe, and receive articles, videos and information on how you can help preserve school choice, and grow the number of American students prepared for our global society and global economy.

Thank you for choosing our school, and congratulations Gator Graduates!