



Governor Lemanu Congratulates High School Graduates of American Samoa

Manu'a High School "O Faiva e Tapuaia, e A'e Manuia"

"As you embark on this new chapter of your lives, I encourage each of you to lead your new life with God at the fore-



front of your path. You will face many challenges, obstacles, and uncertain-ties. The Word says," ..For wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.' Your journey will be a journey of choices.

You choose the door that leads to life or you choose the one that leads to destruction. I encourage you to build a solid foundation rooted in faith and righteousness, it will equip you with the wisdom to choose, and the resilience and strength to overcome obstacles.

Graduates, I urge you not to give up so easily, and do not lose faith. Like your theme, 'You are the master of your

alia; But God is the captain of your journey.' The Alia is you and the ocean is the world you have to explore; I charge you to take with you all who have supported you and go forward in faith. I implore each and every one of you to remember the importance of giving back and serving our people. As you venture into the world and achieve greatness in your chosen fields, I urge you to consider returning to American Samoa to contribute your skills, expertise, and resources to the betterment of our people."





Kanana Fou High School

"With God, All Things are Possible"



"I want you to understand that a major part of life is Failure. Failure is frequently expressed as the inability to perform or to act according to expectations. The question is, Who sets those expectations?"

"Failure to me, a lot of times, is a good thing. We gain new confidence after a time of strife, because we spend much time on our knees praying for God's help. We seek God's refuge and guidance in this hour of pleading, thus creating a foundation and stepping stone of humility."



"The challenges you face from here on out are real; they are serious and they are many. Our struggles of life do not identify our gender, ethnic and religious background, or our social status. These are struggles of life that we must face head on in order for us to learn, endure, and overcome."

"Let your search for God's pathways be the start of your new journey. His Ways are rooted in Mercy and will make your lives prosperous. You will pave ways beyond the expectations of this world. With God, all things are possible. So Graduates, go with God, and I urge you to take chances, and be fearless when you do. Go forward and conquer the world."



Fagaitua High School

"Ia Gagana Pea Le Fau o Nofoga i ala Uma Tatou te Uia"

”

The story goes that a man named Laifaleava journeyed with his daughter Leaauta to seek Taemanutava'e; Leaauta wanted to marry Taemanutava'e who refused to be seen, and lived hidden into the mountains by the river. As they stopped to rest on a rock under a Fau tree, the tree began to talk to them, and gave them directions on where to find Taemanutava'e, and how to bind him.

I want to mention only two out of many proverbs that came from this story. First, 'Ua gagana le fau,' the Fau has spoken. In this manner, the Samoan culture personifies the Fau as a storyteller, a guide, and someone whom we acquire knowledge from. The second proverb is, 'E valuvalusia a'a o le fau,' which speaks of the roots of the Fau being a source of good judgment, compassion and mercy.

I correlate this story to the gift Jesus bestowed upon the disciples and all those who believe in Him. Jesus said, "And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever - the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be with you."

Like the story of the Talking Fau for Leaauta, the Holy Spirit is the guiding light of the path of your life.

Graduates, as you venture into the unknown world of possibilities, remember that you are not alone. Wherever your journey leads you, the Holy Spirit is ever-present, ready to remind you of your worth, and like the Fau Gagana, He is ready to counsel you. Go forth with courage, determination, and the assurance that you carry within you a divine being that can change the world.



Samoana High School

"May He Give You the Desire of Your Heart and Make All Your Plans Succeeds"



“

True success is not merely measured by individual achievements or material gains. Rather, it lies in your ability to contribute to the betterment of the world around us. Psalm 20:4 reminds us that success is not an isolated pursuit; it is intertwined with the well-being of others.

”



“

Embrace the power of education and the wisdom found in our faith. Remember that success is not solely about personal achievements but also about the impact we have on others.

”

“

You have the potential to make a lasting difference, whether it be through scientific breakthroughs, artistic expression, compassionate acts, or innovative solutions to global challenges. Let me remind you that the journey towards the fulfillment of your desires will undoubtedly be marked by obstacles, failures, and uncertainties. It is during these times that we must lean on our faith, our resilience, and our unwavering determination. We must be vigilant in our pursuit of excellence, refusing to be deterred by setbacks or doubts.

”



“

As you embark on this new chapter, remember that you have been equipped with the knowledge, skills, and character to pursue the desires of your hearts. You have spent countless hours studying, engaging in discussions, and challenging yourselves to grow intellectually and emotionally. Your time here has been an investment in your future, a foundation on which you will build our dreams.

”



Nu'uuli Vocational Technical High School

"You May Have to Fight a Battle More Than Once to Win it"

"The world will define success by wealth or material possessions, but true success lies in making a positive impact on the lives of others and contributing to the betterment of society. Each one of you has a unique set of talents, passions, and perspectives. Embrace them and use them to make a difference in your families, churches, villages and communities. Whatever path you choose in life, let your actions be guided by integrity, compassion, and a commitment to doing the right thing even when no one is watching."



"As you move forward, never forget your culture and the values instilled in you by your parents, teachers, spiritual leaders and mentors. Cherish the importance of empathy, kindness, and respect for others. Seek out opportunities to serve your communities and lend a helping hand to those in need. Remember that the greatest joy in life comes not from personal achievements alone but from the impact you have on the lives of others."

"The world you are about to enter is evolving rapidly, characterized by technological advancements, global interconnectedness, and complex societal issues. You will be faced with challenges that previous generations could not have imagined. It will not be easy. You may have to fight a battle more than once before you find success, but do not let that stop you. Remember your purpose and take courage in the people that are rooting for you, encouraging you, and cheering you on from the sidelines."



Leone High School "The World Awaits"



“

Your accomplishments are a testament to your perseverance, dedication, and the unwavering support you received from your parents and parent figures, your families, church and village leaders, your friends and loved ones. I commend each and every one of you, and congratulate you for all of your achievements; your hard work and perseverance has brought you to this day. Give the glory and praise to God!

”



2023





Manumalo Academy "Stand Firm in Faith" (1 Corinthians 16: 13-14)

In his special remarks, Governor Lemanu began by reciting the biblical story of David and Goliath. "Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied... Therefore David ran, and stood upon the Philistine, and took his sword, and drew it out of the sheath thereof, and slew him, and cut off his head therewith," an excerpt of the battle of David and Goliath.

Honorable Lemanu remarked, "You have faced and battled many Goliaths in your lives here at Manumalo Baptist Community. However, this battlefield has created many Davids who have all had to overcome the many challenges, and because you have all stood firm in your faith, you have all come out successful." He continued, "Graduates, the world will come to you with many more Goliaths, but you will continue to face them in the name of our Lord and God Almighty."



Tafuna High School

“Ua Tu Mālie le Lau”

“

As you stand on the precipice of this moment, ready to step out into the world, I pose a question to you: Are you ready? Are you prepared for what lies ahead? The world beckons with its vast opportunities where the metaphorical milk and honey flow. But to seize these opportunities, to thrive and flourish, a warrior must always be ready. Remember that you are a warrior, you must always be ready. I have four encouragements to leave with you today:

”

"Remember who you are and where you're from. Embrace your individuality, your values, and your principles. Do not conform to the standards of the world, but rather let your character and integrity shine through. Remember your roots, for they have molded you into the extraordinary individuals you are today."

"Work Hard. Success does not come to those who idly wait for it. It is achieved through perseverance, determination, and unwavering effort. Embrace challenges and setbacks as opportunities for growth and improvement. Strive for excellence in all that you do, knowing that hard work is the foundation of success."

"Dream big. Let your imagination soar and set audacious goals for yourselves. Don't be afraid to chase after your dreams, even if they seem impossible at first. Hold onto your aspirations tightly and let them guide you. Never lose sight of what you want to achieve, and let your dreams inspire and motivate you along your journey."

"We live in a world that often emphasizes competition and individual success. However, I encourage you to redefine what it means to be a winner. True winners are not those who solely seek personal glory but uplift and bring others along on their journey. As you achieve your goals, extend a helping hand to those around you."



Iakina Adventist Academy

“We Learned, We Failed, With God We Prevailed”



The American Samoa Department of Commerce Director Petti Matila represented the American Samoa Government and delivered the special remarks on behalf of Governor Lemanu. Director Matila encouraged the graduates to keep God in their planning and do not let any opportunity pass by without giving a it try. "There will be high and lows throughout your journey, but you will have to keep going." Director Matila added, "Do not assume that you cannot do something until you give it a try. Never give up when faced with failures. Keep trying with God in the center of your goals in life. You will continue to prevail in your life's journey."



[Photo Credit: Iakina Adventist Academy]

South Pacific Academy

"Never Give Up Until You've Given Out All Your Very Best. It's Better to Fail Trying than Wondering What Could Have Happened If you Tried."

(J. cole)



Dr. Salote Aoelua Fanene, the Director of Youth & Women's Affairs represented the American Samoa Government at the South Pacific Academy graduation. Dr. Fanene also delivered the special remarks on behalf of Governor Lemanu. [Photo Credit: HB Media]

Pacific Horizons



Lieutenant Governor Talauega E. V. Ale attended the Pacific Horizons High Graduation on behalf of the Governor Lemanu and the American Samoa Government. He helped present the graduate diplomas and special awards during the ceremony.

Fa'asao Marist High School

"Don't Wait. The Time Will Never Be Just Right." (Napolean Hill)

Lieutenant Governor Talauega E.V. Ale attended the Fa'asao Marist High School graduation on behalf of Governor Lemanu and the people of American Samoa. In his special remarks, Lt. Governor Ale encouraged the graduates to persevere and be patient as they go through life. The movies and books make life seem easy. "Life is a series of imperfect moments that you piece together to come up with a perfect outcome." Lt. Governor Ale counseled the graduates to "not dwell on their mistakes too long. Turn the chapter and forgive yourself and move forward."

Finally, Lt. Governor Ale acknowledged the private schools' contribution to the government of American Samoa. He shared that "the Government of American Samoa owes a huge debt to all private schools. You help with the load of educating our children. Thank you for providing an excellent education for students of American Samoa." The American Samoa Government promotes education because in order for the community to have good citizens, "we need educated leaders and individuals to lead our people."

