

Dear students,

As I conclude my teaching career and head into retirement, I find myself pondering our time together. What an adventure it has been! We have laughed, cried, learned, and grown together. There have been some amazing moments as well as some incredible challenges. You have created a lifetime of positive memories for me and for that I feel truly blessed.

For those of you who have ever been in one of my classes, clubs, or teams, you know how much I value self-reflection. I believe that we learn best by thinking about what we were taught, how we applied the knowledge, and what impact it had on us. Through my own introspection, here are the most important lessons I hope you learned from me during the moments we shared.

### **Choose grateful**

We may not have everything we want, but most of us have everything we need. Take time to recognize and appreciate the blessings in your life. Find beauty whenever and wherever you can in your own circumstances and surroundings.

### **Hold yourself accountable**

Many times in life, the things that happen to us are a direct result of our own attitude and effort. Own your actions. If things aren't the way you would like them to be, work hard to change them through self-improvement instead of accepting the negative result and blaming others.

### **Seek solutions**

We live in a world that can find fault in everything we do. This creates a very toxic environment. Just because we have the right to complain doesn't mean complaining is always the right thing to do. If something makes you unhappy, work to create solutions instead of simply pointing out shortcomings.

### **Your best "you"**

You are unique and possess the talent and ability to find personal success and happiness. Honor those gifts by working to become the best "you" possible. This can be accomplished by becoming an engaged student, risking failure by trying new things, and investing time and energy into your passions.

### **Be an exceptional human**

Being a good student is admirable, but being an exceptional human is the greatest compliment you can receive and the highest honor you can earn. Be the type of person others want to hang around. Kindness, compassion, empathy, and love are the most important lessons you can learn - in or out of school.

In closing, I would like to thank you all for making my teaching journey such a wonderful chapter in my life. You've made my heart smile every day for the past 27 years. I love you all!

Peace be the Journey -  
Mr. Horbinski