

Graduation is a time for reflection on the past and hope for the future. First, I congratulate the Class of 2024 graduates. We know you have worked hard; we hope you enjoyed your time in our schools; and we wish you the best for a productive and fulfilling future.

Importantly, we hope you are prepared for the next leg of your journey. As you seek your career path, we hope we have provided the tools and experiences to help you find a productive and successful future. The purpose of our public schools is not to prepare students for the next grade level (although we do that, too) but to ultimately prepare all students academically and socially-emotionally for life after high school. Career planning is a large part of that preparation, and we have a multi-level approach.

Career planning starts early in a student's education. Edgar's academic and career planning process is summed up in seven words on the district website: Reflect (6th grade); Connect (7th grade); Direct (8th grade); Know (9th grade); Explore (10th grade); Plan (11th grade); and Go (12th grade). We offer this to all students as part of their curriculum. However, like no two students are alike, neither are their aspirations.

Therefore, being a small district, we must be thoughtful and flexible to meet the individual students and help them have experiences that prepare them for their desired careers. With that purpose in mind, examples of opportunities include partnerships with Northwest Technical College and Dual Credit classes in the high school. Other examples are clubs and activities that provide students with insights about careers in business, agriculture, and health-related pathways. We bring in guest speakers to share information about a range of careers. We are grateful to those speakers who often go above and beyond and welcome students to shadow them or offer other advice to interested students. Counselors host meetings with parents and students to ensure everyone agrees and can provide support along the way.

All of this is done to prepare our students as they set sail for their next chapter. And now, from all of the staff of Edgar Schools, we wish them a safe, happy, and productive journey. We will miss them, but we know that they must move on! Congratulations.