

## **Our beloved Blazer staff,**

On behalf of the student council board, and every student in our building whom you know and don't know, we would like to show our appreciation to you. The reasons for gratitude, of course, are endless. This year, however, deserves a special acknowledgement.

The remote learning policy changed much, but some things persisted. As students, we still felt the personalized care the teachers gave us. And for the record, we'd like to add a few learning objectives you may not know you stumbled upon this year, besides the usual writing, reading, critical thinking, evaluating, inquiring, calculating, and speaking ones you muster up for us each semester:

We learned that the Addison Trail family cannot be stopped by "distance". Distance is a relative term that, although measurable by science or math, cannot be applied to the relationships you made us a part of. Through this remote learning experience, we were, technically, apart, but nevertheless, felt embraced, cared for, included, and always, always, at home.

We learned that although the school may be empty, and the halls may be silent, there is still a Blazer nation that bleeds beyond the limitations of a bell schedule or the boundaries of Army Trail or Lombard Road. It is a nation that grows and extends in our hearts and our memories, in every smile you gave us. and in every inspirational nudge you knew we needed, whether it was delivered face to face, or network to network.

We finally learned that high school is, indeed, preparation for the “real world”. We closed the school abruptly, with an imminent deadline. There were no “rehearsals” for the challenges we had to face because of this. Life happened, just like you said it would. Yet, somehow, we were prepared, and never alone.

We learned what “Blazer Pride” really is. The reservoir of crumpled up Blazer t-shirts in our closets, or under our beds that we lounged in these past weeks were no longer just designated to Fridays. They became daily uniforms to a status we earned, our “Sunday best” for a family get together only we understood because only we are Blazers. You, with your tireless dedication and concern and professional love, taught us what that belonging really means.

True, we are no longer in your classrooms. We moved on, some permanently, some will be back. But through this experience we learned what the future holds:

Always, always, you will be with us, in the hallways of our hearts, in the classrooms of our memories, in the voice in our heads reminding us how cared for we really are.

For that, we give you the “A” you so truly deserve.

Sincerely,  
The Students of Addison Trail High School