

**Children need encouragement every day....but let us also help them strive to be the best they can be, to look for the great things that they each can accomplish, as they progress through school. Those children, age 9-10, are as good a group to encourage, as are the 17-18 year olds, the seniors leaving high school. *The younger, the better.***

**QUOTE TO NOTE**

"I wanted to leave you with a piece of advice, and the best advice I heard came from one of the parent's here today -- Amelia Seel, whose daughter Amirah is graduating. She said, 'It's important to know where you are and know where you want to be...then chart a course to get there.' No matter what you want to be when you grow up, staying in school, working hard, and getting a good education is the course that will get you there. Like I said at the beginning, I've heard great things about each of you, but that doesn't compare to the great things I expect from all of you in the years ahead. Congratulations [on graduating], and best of luck in middle school!"

-- Deputy Secretary of Education Ray Simon (7/11/07), at Brighter Choice Charter Schools' (Albany, NY) fourth-grade graduation ceremony.