

## Tennent grads urged to 'slow down and enjoy' future

By James Boyle Correspondent | Posted: Friday, June 20, 2014 10:22 pm

When Luke Judy arrived at William Tennent High School four years ago, fresh after being transplanted from his home in Ohio, he felt not only the normal anxiety of being in high school for the first time, but also the trepidation of being surrounded by completely unfamiliar faces in an unknown environment.

“I am extremely grateful that my classmates immediately made me feel comfortable and right at home,” Luke said as he addressed Tennent’s Class of 2014 Friday afternoon during commencement. “I may not have been born a Panther, but I will always be one now.”

The class president used that opportunity to thank the more than 450 graduating seniors for the warm welcome he received in 2010 and give their parents assurance that they enter the real world with solid, moral character, a compliment that Centennial School District Superintendent Dr. Joyce Mundy echoed after the ceremony.

“They are just one of the nicest classes I have ever seen,” said Mundy. “It’s a very kind and compassionate group that did a great deal of service for the school and community.”

As she addressed the graduates, Mundy encouraged them to take the lessons learned in the past and hold onto them as they move on. She said that the first day, month and year of elementary school gave the students the foundations they need for a lifetime of success.

“Play nice, stand in line, raise your hands to answer questions,” said Mundy. “That evolves into respecting others and understanding there are people with diverse cultures and backgrounds. You also learned to keep your focus on working hard and doing your best. You were all driven to reach this milestone, and each of you are here because you worked hard. Finally, you learned that courage is key, and it takes grit and determination to succeed. It’s important to take risks and realize that setbacks are learning opportunities.”

Before the Class of 2014 could throw their caps and embark on their new paths, their class president wanted to remind them to hang on to the present as much as they could and fully appreciate their accomplishments.

“Things move much faster on the East Coast,” Luke said. “As soon as something is achieved, we move



William Tennent graduation

The fifty-ninth annual commencement ceremony of the William Tennent High School in Warminster Friday night. Here members of the graduating class of 1964 stand up during the ceremony.

on to the next thing and never pause and enjoy what we do and have at that moment. As you become the next doctors, soldiers, mechanics, politicians and teachers, slow down to enjoy what you do.”

Looking across the sea of young, celebratory faces eager to take on the world, Centennial school board President Jane Schrader Lynch saw nothing but hope and optimism that the graduates would make an impact on the world.

“With the imagination and ingenuity I see here, who knows the possibilities and changes you will bring,” said Lynch. “We truly need your help. Whatever you choose to do, give it your all and never give up.”