

My Education, My Future

新島学園中学校 3年 林 果 英

Hello everyone — how's everybody doing today?

Today I want to focus on the responsibility each of you has for your education. I want to start with the responsibility you have to yourself.

Every single one of you has something you're good at. Every single one of you has something to offer. And you have a responsibility to yourself to discover what that is. That's the opportunity an education can provide.

Maybe you could be a good writer — maybe even good enough to write a book or articles in a newspaper — but you might not know it until you write a paper for your English class. Maybe you could be an innovator or an inventor — maybe even good enough to come up with the next iPhone or a new medicine or vaccine — but you might not know it until you do a project for your science class. Maybe you could be a mayor or a Senator or a Supreme Court Justice, but you might not know that until you join student government or the debate team.

And no matter what you want to do with your life — I guarantee that you'll need an education to do it. You want to be a doctor, or a teacher, or a police officer? You want to be a nurse or an architect, a lawyer or a member of our military? You're going to need a good education for every single one of those careers. You can't drop out of school and just drop into a good job. You've got to work for it and train for it and learn for it.

And this isn't just important for your own life and your own future. What you make of your education will decide nothing less than the future of this country. What you're learning in school today will determine whether we as a nation can meet our greatest challenges in the future.

We need every single one of you to develop your talents, skills and intellect so you can help solve our most difficult problems. If you don't do that — if you quit on school — you're not just quitting on yourself, you're quitting on your country. Now I know it's not always easy to do well in school. I know a lot of you have challenges in your lives right now that can make it hard to focus on your schoolwork.

No one's born being good at things, you become good at things through hard work. You're not a varsity athlete the first time you play a new sport. You don't hit every note the first time you sing a song. You've got to practice.

Don't be afraid to ask questions. Don't be afraid to ask for help when you need it.

And even when you're struggling, even when you're discouraged — don't ever give up on yourself. Because when you give up on yourself, you give up on your country.

So today, I want to ask you, what's your contribution going to be?
Make us all proud. I know you can do it.

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MassLive Media 「Full text of President Obama's speech on the importance of education」

[〈https://www.masslive.com/thefray/2009/09/full_text_of_president_obamas.html〉](https://www.masslive.com/thefray/2009/09/full_text_of_president_obamas.html)

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