



Excited Ayala High seniors prepare to enter the Citizens Business Bank Arena in Ontario for their graduation ceremony on June 8.

Congratulations to Ayala High's Class of 2016!

Ayala High Principal Diana Yarboi had two back-to-back high school graduation ceremonies this week.

On June 8, she said goodbye to Ayala High's Class of 2016, and today (June 9), she will watch her 18-year-old son graduate.

When she asked her son for advice on her speech for Ayala seniors, he suggested "Say 'way to go!' and sit down."

"But this class is so amazing, I have to say more," Yarboi told the more than 600 Ayala seniors, their family and friends at the Citizens Business Bank Arena in Ontario. She gave three pieces of advice: To be involved in life, be of service, and to enjoy and celebrate their achievements. Yarboi then read a long list of

achievements Ayala has had in the last year, including the Boys Varsity Basketball team winning the Palomares League Championship, and top national wins by the school's Color Guard and Drum Line. She also listed the numerous prestigious universities that had accepted members of the Class of 2016, including Harvard, Harvey Mudd, Berkeley, Stanford, and Johns Hopkins.

Valedictorian Terry Chern thanked his grandfather for instilling a love of education in him. Co-Valedictorian Blessing Edem advised her fellow classmates to turn "can't into can" and go after the things they want in life.

The Class has six salutatorians: Caleb Chau, Andrew Chen, Benjamin Lee, Joshua Lin, Austin Ma, and Celine Park.

Shweta Shah, United Study Body President, Class of 2016, likened the science fiction movie, "Star Wars" Episode 7" to high school, with students entering the unknown when they started and now posed at the cliffhanger: their future lives.



Ayala High's Class of 2016 show a variety of emotions as they await the start of their commencement ceremony.



Two friends enjoy a moment before the graduation begins.



A senior gets some help with his graduation cap.



Three Ayala High seniors take it easy moments before the graduation ceremony begins.



Ayala High seniors practice American Sign Language hand movements to go along with the song "I Lived," which is also the Class of 2016's motto.



Arms locked and walking four across, the Ayala High seniors enter the arena floor for the ceremony. There are more than 600 graduating seniors in the Class of 2016.



An Ayala High faculty member gives the first row of seniors the cue to proceed to the stage for their diplomas.



The seniors ascend the stage to receive their diplomas.



Ayala High seniors prepare to take the stage. Packed into the seats around them are family and friends.