



49ers Academy Graduation Marks 9th Anniversary

The eighth 49ers Academy Graduation took place on June 9, 2005 at the 49ers Academy in East Palo Alto. Thirty-nine graduates celebrated their final step before entering high school next fall. This year marks the 9th Anniversary of the 49ers Academy.

The graduating class is destined for great things, including the class valedictorian, Roseanna Maafu, who has been accepted to Eastside College Preparatory School in East Palo Alto and was awarded a \$2,500 scholarship for college that the 49ers Academy will match.

“Education and the ability to become a life-long learner are the keys to success,” Roseanna told the graduates. “The 49ers Academy is not just a school for kids with learning problems; it’s more than that. It’s a nurturing environment that is safe.”

Ed Goines, vice president and general counsel for the 49ers, was on hand to deliver the commencement address, “Consider your options; challenge yourselves and each other. If you believe in yourself, you can do anything.”



Ed went on to tell the graduates a story about an 8th grade boy who was 5’1” and 250 pounds. Classmates made fun of him and called him names. He was down in the dumps until his football coach proposed a challenge, “Lose 50 pounds or you’re off the team.” The boy, Ed Goines himself, lost 80 pounds, became a starter on the team, went on to be all-state, class president, attended Stanford University and Berkeley School of Law and is now Vice President of the 49ers.

Principal Duncan offered up words of encouragement for the students moving forward, “Do not let this be your last victory. Let it be the first of many.”

The 49ers Academy provides students in grades six through eight with comprehensive academic, social and emotional services such as conflict resolution, art therapy and grief counseling.

The Academy provides a caring community where the emphasis is on one-on-one relationships to promote academic success in children who have struggled in other school programs. For more information, visit www.49ers-academy.org.