



Members of Chino Hills High's Class of 2016 hold the white roses they were given as they received their diplomas June 8 at the Citizens Business Bank Arena in Ontario.

Congratulations to Chino Hills High's Class of 2016!

Chino Hills High Principal Isabel Brenes began her speech at the Class of 2016's commencement ceremony on June 8 at Citizens Business Bank Arena in Ontario with a lengthy list of the school's accomplishments this year, including having the number one boys' basketball team in the nation, a top national drum line, and graduates who will receive \$3.5 million in scholarships while attending prestigious universities.

"All of those aforementioned accolades pale in comparison to what these fine young men and women will become," she said. Brenes likened their futures to a hero's journey. She said the graduates need to find mentors to help them on the journey. She also said, that while they may want to shy away from the challenges

in life, those challenges will shape who they will become. “Be the flame that ignites action,” she said.

Chino Hills High’s 2016 Valedictorian Keefer Chern chided crosstown rival Ayala High for putting him on a waiting list to enter that school. But, in the end it all worked out, he said. He became valedictorian at Chino Hills High and his cousin, Terry Chern is the 2016 Valedictorian at Ayala.

“After the ceremony, we’ll be kicked out, but new doors will open,” Chern said in his humorous speech.

Salutatorian Kalen Chang, second in the class of approximately 700, was also introduced during the ceremony.

Class President Chris Amirbehboody, who hugged several graduates and faculty members during the ceremony, said high school memories are like holding 100 pennies in your hand. “You will take most of them with you, but you will leave some on campus.” He suggested that instead of pennies, graduates should always have “four quarters” in their lives: Family, Friends, Education, and Personal Growth.

“More than your race or your background, dreams define who you are,” he told his classmates.

As the choir sang the inspirational song, “Flashlight,” hundreds of family and friends in the stands created lights for the graduates by waving their cell phones.



Chino Hills High seniors line up as they prepare to enter the arena floor.



The seniors file into the arena to the traditional graduation music, "Pomp and Circumstance."



Chino Hills High Valedictorian Kefer Chern is pictured speaking during the ceremony, via the arena's large-screen television.



Chino Hills High Assistant Principal Kyle Shuler greets the graduates as they leave the stage.



Guests at the Chino Hills High graduation ceremony get a “close-up” view of their graduates receiving their diplomas, via Citizens Business Bank Arena’s large-screen television.



These family and friends of graduates wear head gear with tiny graduation caps.



Audience members shine their cell phone lights as the song “Flashlight” is sung during the Chino Hills High graduation ceremony.



Streamers in blue and green -- Chino High's colors -- explode in the arena as the ceremony concludes.



A graduate meets with family and friends following the ceremony.