

My name is Elijah Tronti, and I will be graduating this year, which you may have gathered by me standing here before you today. I am extremely proud to say that I will be graduating from Redlands eAcademy. I have grown very close to my teachers and classmates in the few years that I have attended classes here. They will definitely be missed as I move on to college. They have all been part of my support group as I fought and won against cancer-acute Lymphocytic Leukemia- to be specific. But before I go any further into how excited I am that I made it, I'd like to take the time to thank those who are the reason for me making it. My teachers and counselors have been nothing but understanding and helpful as I struggled to work through middle and ending stages of my chemo therapy. I really might not have made it through school without them because it turns out that being pumped full of radiation every other week kind of takes a toll on you. The list of side-effects and medications I've had to deal with could fill up pages. There were times where I was surprised a baby alien didn't pop out of my stomach. So, school on top of all that would have been very difficult if it weren't for the awesome and understanding faculty of eAcademy.

The eAcademy staff sort of took me in and helped me throughout my years at this school as I had to put up with the nasty side-effects of my still entirely necessary medical treatment. Their thoughtfulness and support made me feel like

I had a second family. I learned, while in the hospital, that even if you don't have any control over your body or what's happening to it, keeping your spirits up and your hope and faith strong is just as-if not more-important. I realized that this could apply for real life struggles as well, easily, and that I should always be prepared to make the best out of any situation. Not once did I feel like I had to make the best out of eAcademy, because the truth is it was already the best place for me to be. And, the people there were already the best people for me to encounter.

Now, I would like to thank Ms. Craw and Mrs. Cavanaugh for being there for me whenever I needed help with absolutely anything. I would like to thank Mrs. Collins for her commitment to me at all times, as well as Mrs. Rehage for her support and for spicing up my eAcademy experience with some English Teacher flare. You gotta love that English, seriously. I would also like to thank Mrs. Monahan for her help, Ms. Milam for her awesomeness, and Mrs. Jill, or "Just Jill" as she prefers it for being so fun and kind and adding some drama to my life as we worked together in Drama class. And last but not least, I would like to thank our principal Mr. Finley for helping me as well as all the other kids here at Redlands eAcademy so much. I believe he and all the other faculty and teachers will be the finest ones eAcademy will have for a long time, and I am so glad I got to meet

them.

I am glad to say that I have been accepted into my dream college at CBU where I will be attending classes next fall. I plan to major in art, because I love it so much. It is my passion. I also plan to minor in English. I wasn't joking about that English, you gotta love it. I feel like art and beauty can be found in everything, whether that be a bold image or painting or bold words, statements, and stories. I consider imagery, imagination, and inspiration vital for all of us, and like I said I see it everywhere. I can even find a certain art in me and my fellow classmates graduating because it's when we truly get to take matters into our own hands and start a new chapter in our lives, and there really is an artistic quality to that; like the next stroke of a brush against the canvas. Oh! Look at that, I appear to have gotten some sap on my speech, I'm sorry about that. Anyway, just as I hope to make my parents proud by starting this next chapter of my life, I also wish to make my teachers and counselors proud as well because they poured so much time and energy into me making it this far. So, thank you all again for your love and support for not just me but my classmates as well. They have been working just as hard as I have and the teachers of eAcademy have been devoted to helping all of us on our way to graduation. I personally believe that I wouldn't even be here if it weren't for my Lord and savior Jesus Christ as well. I believe I survived

cancer-nay conquered it-and finished school with his support as well as my teachers, and I believe that we can all rely on him at all times if we come to him. So, thank you all (teachers of eAcademy) again on my behalf and my classmates behalf for helping us to this point, and I am confident that we are all going to make something awesome out of our lives.