

Brackman Graduation
June 17, 2009

Good evening everyone. It's a pleasure and an honor to be here tonight to speak before the 8th grade graduating class of the Russell O. Brackman Middle School. I would like to thank the Barnegat Township BOE and the administration for inviting me to speak before you this evening.

Today is an important day, a milestone, for the students graduating from the 8th grade. After today and your summer vacation, you move on to your final four years of your basic education. During those four years you will formulate your future. You will decide what path you will take in your education, which subjects you will study and what you will major in should you continue on to higher education. Many decisions that were made for you up to this point will be made by you with the help and guidance of your family, teachers and counselors.

You are now young adults and will soon come of age to drive, to vote and to make your own decisions. Those decisions will determine the rest of your lives, whether it's college, the military or entering the workforce. Don't be afraid to seek the help from the people around you. They are all here to see you succeed. With their help and your conviction, I'm certain you will find your high school years to be rich and rewarding as were mine.

As your Mayor, I congratulate you today on achieving this most important step in your education and wish you all the best as you move on to your final four years at the Barnegat High School.

Thank you and have a great summer,

**Jeffrey M. Melchiondo
Mayor, Barnegat Township**