

Ladies and gentlemen, esteemed colleagues, and the students who somehow managed to avoid detention this week,

As I stand here today in front of you all, I can't help but feel a bit like a computer being shut down--ready for a reboot, but also slightly worried about what updates are about to be installed. Yes, it's true. After years of dodging the sticky fingers of gum under the desks, and navigating the seas of crumpled homework assignments, I am officially retiring from my post as your friendly neighborhood educator.

Reflecting on my time here, I remember my first day. I confidently walked into the classroom thinking, "How hard can this be?"--a sentiment not unlike what the Titanic captain probably felt before setting sail. But unlike the Titanic, we managed to sail through years of wonderful chaos together.

To my beloved colleagues, who have become my dear friends--thank you for all the times you reassured me by saying, "It's okay, they didn't listen to me either." That warm camaraderie, often compared to a therapy group at coffee breaks, has been my survival kit.

To the students, past and present--you've been the reason I wake up every morning and why I always keep an emergency supply of aspirin handy. Each of you holds a special place in my heart because we know none of those empty desks did the stunts some of you pulled off. Remember, education is like a sharpener--it can be a bit abrasive at times, but it will make you shine brighter.

So, as I exit stage left from this remarkable play, know that I'll miss hearing your stories, even if I only understood half of them due to the headphone mumbles. Keep learning, stay curious, and most importantly, don't ever let yourself believe that there's a limit to what you can achieve. Oh, and maybe, just maybe, eat that random leftover apple in your lunchbox before it turns into a science experiment.

Thank you all for the memories, the laughs, and yes, even the lessons. I'm off to find out if life really is better without the smell of dry erase markers.

Cheers!