

BARACK OBAMA

October 26, 2008

Tom R. Chambers
Teacher, Technology Applications
Junior Academy
Raul Yzaguirre School for Success
2950 Broadway St.
Houston, TX 77017

Dear Students,

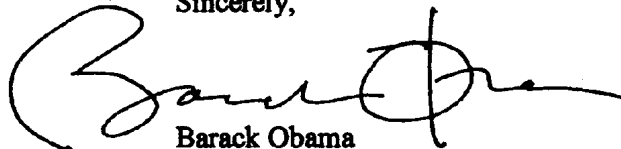
Thank you for all your kind letters and congratulations on being such conscientious citizens. Our country needs more young people like you who care about making a difference. Indeed, the future – with all its promises and obstacles – is yours, so it is your prerogative to make this a world you want to inhabit.

Admittedly, you may find it tempting throughout your life to turn inward and to imagine that the world's problems are someone else's to resolve. It will probably be more comfortable to ignore the injustices of the world that don't affect you directly. But I hope you don't choose that comfortable road. For a life spent pursuing only material gain and personal advantage shows a poverty of ambition, and it will leave you unfulfilled.

The challenges you'll face during this century will be daunting and complex, and they will test your resolve, your intellect, and your courage. But know that you have it within your power to confront those challenges, just as previous generations of Americans tackled their own set of problems and fears in their own era. If you're willing to strive for something better, to work hard, to empathize with the concerns of others, to take great risks, and to persevere through trial – America will continue its journey towards a better day.

Seeing young people like you who care about making the world better inspires me and gives me great hope for the future of our country. I wish you the best of luck as you go out into a world that's counting on you.

Sincerely,



Barack Obama



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WWW.BARACKOBAMA.COM