

The journey leading to commencement requires perseverance and resilience and Sabrina Hoffman, who completed her graduation requirements this summer, knows that full well.

But all her effort paid off and was evident in words and expressions of participants in an afternoon commencement ceremony August 24th in the Newark High School library at which Hoffman was the sole graduate.

Brandon Wollek, who also completed his graduation requirements this summer, was unable to attend.

NHS Principal Tom Roote praised Hoffman for resolve and determination to stay the course and obtain her high school diploma, emphasizing, as well, the help and encouragement she received along the way from various caring NHS staff members who were equally determined she succeed, including NHS school counselor John Ginter, who was summer school principal.

"This is a special moment for all of us," Roote said. "This event is the culmination of a significantly challenging journey. Sabrina has done her part to meet those challenges."

Then he invited others to speak at the informal, but moving ceremony.

Two were Nicole Reinholtz, NHS Prevention Counselor and Ginter, who will be an administrative intern functioning as an assistant principal at Newark Middle School during the upcoming school year.

Reinholtz said it had been a pleasure working with Hoffman over the years.

"I'm so, so proud of you. You've worked hard. Congratulations. Stay healthy. Stay focused. Now go get what you want," she said.

"This is a very special achievement in your life," Ginter said. "Keep fighting. Keep going. You didn't quit when things got tough. Keep going forward."

Before the ceremony, Roote cordially welcomed guests including: Hoffman's family and friends, Krista Lewis, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction who certified that Hoffman had met the requirements for graduation; Ed Gnau, Assistant Superintendent for Business, Board of Education President Russ Harris and BOE member Jim Miranda; NHS Director of Counseling Danielle McGavisk, NHS Counseling Office secretary, Patty VerBridge, former NHS Family and Consumer Science teacher Barb Mikler-Crandon who retired in June; NHS teaching assistant Sue Yatteau and Yolanda Pinnix, NHS Foster Grandparent Program volunteer.

Commencement was followed by a reception for Hoffman and well-wishers.



Congratulations Sabrina!