



Ladies and gentlemen, parents and families, fellow classmates from the Class of 2012 welcome and thank you for the honor of addressing you this evening. I would like to begin by thanking the Cabot School District and every teacher that I have had during the years I have lived and attended school in Cabot. I would not be the person standing here before you today without the time and dedication the faculty has invested in me in reaching my academic goals. Their tireless commitment has had a profound impact on me, not only as a student but as a person. I would also like to thank my friends and family. I cannot thank you enough for the support and love you have given to me over the years.

Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness are three ideas contained in the Declaration of Independence that so aptly define our future, class of 2012. Life being that each one of us has only lived and experienced such a small fraction of the world and what it has to offer. Our lives are truly just beginning. We are all opening new doors to our futures. Each door will lead down a new and different path. This is our opportunity to embrace all the changes that are taking place in our lives and to begin the process of truly discovering who we are as individuals. I ask you class of 2012 to always remember how precious life is and that we are only given one life...so live it to the fullest. We are fortunate to live in a country where we are blessed with the liberty and freedom that allows us to pursue our dreams and make the best of our lives. Not everyone in the world is afforded the opportunities endowed on us as Americans. So we owe it to our country and our fellow Americans to always strive to better not only ourselves, but the world

around us. It is ironic that each phrase builds off of the previous one. It is impossible to be able to pursue happiness if one did not have life and liberty. We are all granted life and liberty through birth, but the pursuit of happiness is a personal choice and the willingness to strive for the things that will truly make us happy. You may have to persevere through unseemly situations and bear arduous burdens but nothing in life comes without a little sweat, tears, and hard work. Life should be about seizing and holding dear the moments that are full of joy and happiness. Each person defines true happiness differently, but no matter how you define it there is always a path to pursue and obtain it. The note worthy philosopher Winnie the Pooh once said, "You can't stay in your corner of the Forest waiting for others to come to you. You have to go to them sometimes." So class of 2012 it is time for us to step out of the forest and to forge our way into the world discovering new people and adventures. As you pursue your own happiness, I wish each and every one of you the best of luck. Congratulations class of 2012!

2012 CHS Salutatorian, Kristen Anderson