

First of all, I would like to begin by thanking all of the family, friends, teachers, and other employees of the Cabot School District for attending this memorable event. You all have had an incredible impact on our lives. It is because of you, that we have developed into the adults that we are today. With this, I thank you for the blood, sweat, and tears you have invested in us over the years to get us to this point.

Now, I did not expect to be salutatorian. I did not think I would rank anything higher than 5<sup>th</sup>. So, it came to me as a great surprise when I got a call from the school Tuesday saying I was salutatorian. At first, I was ecstatic, like all of you, I have worked hard to get to this point. That feeling did not last long, however, it was slowly taken over by anxiety. I realized I had to write a speech and speak in front of thousands of people. Most of you, students and teachers, know that I am not the most social person, I am very quiet. There are things in life, however, that we do not want to do and are forced to set out of our comfort zones. So, I decided that it was time to come out of my shell a bit. I sat down and wondered what I could write about. Nothing came to mind; I had absolutely no idea what direction I wanted to take this speech. Did I want to reminisce about memories from this past year or say something inspirational? I did not want the clichéd “your journey may end here, but a new one begins.” I am not an emotional person; I did not want anything that was mushy, gushy, and full of feelings. I wanted something that was short, sweet, and to the point. With that being said, we should all be proud of ourselves. After many homework assignments, sleepless nights, and a lot of procrastination we finally made it. We finally get to graduate. Once the excitement is over, however, our lives will be completely different. We will be in a new territory, with new people, and much more responsibility. There will be times where we will be faced with hardships and forced to step out of our comfort zones, but we cannot let that stop us. It is time for us to come out of our shells, to

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step out of our comfort zones, and conquer what lies before us. With that, I wish each and every one of you the best of luck in life.

CONGRATUALIONS CLASS OF 2013!!