

Salutatorian Tyler Shock

Welcome friends, family, faculty, and most importantly, the class of 2014. Thirteen years ago, the class of 2014 consisted of scared kindergarteners, clinging to our parent's legs as they dragged us inside for our first day of school. Thirteen years later, many of us still cling to a parent's leg as they drag us to the high school. Without the support of those who care about us, our parents, teachers, administration, and friends, we wouldn't have been able to make it this far. So, from the students to everyone in attendance today, I would like the graduating class to give a round of applause for the support they have been given by those close to them.

I remember the first day that our class stepped foot into the high school...you know what? No. This speech is not about reminiscing. That can be saved for the fifty year class reunion, when half of us are senile, and the other half of us are pretending to be senile so we can get away with speeding tickets and forgetting to tip at restaurants. Sorry, I don't mean to offend any old people out there, especially you Grandma. This speech is about looking forward. Graduates, although you may not realize it, today marks a monumental change in our lives. Society now deems us peculiar creatures known as "adults". Now, does this mean that we can longer play our Game Boys or whine in public places, embarrassing our parents? No, it does not, but people may give you strange looks if you do. As society's newest adults, we take on a whole new realm of responsibility. It is something to fear, but it is also something to be excited about. Whether you are going to college, joining the military, getting a job or pursuing a goal that fulfills you, you are now able to leave your mark on this world. And that's a scary thought.

And now, my advice to all of the graduates. I encourage all of you to make every one of your decisions with a goal in mind, no matter how ludicrous it may seem. As Les Brown once said, "Shoot for the moon. Even if you miss, you'll land among the stars." The graduating class before me is full of untapped potential, and I challenge each and every one of you to reach that potential. Then, once you have reached that potential, keep going. There is no limit to what we can do; the only limits placed upon us are those that we perceive to exist. And the laws of physics. Those are pretty limiting. Sorry, but we can't time travel just yet. I will end this speech with a quote that I found on Google last night, a quote by Tom Brokaw, that seemed fitting. "You are educated. Your certification is in your diploma. You may think of it as the ticket to the good life. Let me ask you to think of an alternative. Think of it as your ticket to change the world." Thank you all for your time, and once again, congratulations Class of 2014. Best of luck to all of you.