

Valedictorian- Jamie Middleton

Good evening ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the graduating senior class I'd like to thank all of the families, friends, and faculty who are in attendance tonight and have supported us throughout this entire journey. Without you pushing us to strive far above and beyond, and maybe a little nagging here and there, we wouldn't have made it to where we are now. Thank you for everything.

Seniors: so this is it, this is the end. We all have imagined what tonight might be like at least a thousand times. What it'll be like to walk across this stage, to get our diplomas, to throw up our caps and cheer that we're finally through. For some of us this moment will be better than anything we could've dreamed of; for others it may fall a little short, that it's not what we expected it to be; and there are those like me who are so overwhelmed that we're still in shock that we are actually graduating. Regardless of which category you're in, high school is over, and when we leave here tonight, we will go off and do bigger and better things with our lives. But right now we have a lot to be proud of; we have accomplished quite a bit in the past years. Honestly, it's an accomplishment in itself that we even made it here tonight considering the massive epidemic of senioritis that has hit this senior class. But seriously, we have achieved so much in thirteen years. The wonderful memories and experiences we have made should be what we take with us when we go because that's what has made us who we are today. Remember high school for all the good that has happened, don't let the rough patches outweigh the brilliant moments. Even though after tonight we will go our separate ways, it doesn't mean we won't ever see each other again. "Never say goodbye because goodbye means going away and going away means forgetting." Don't forget all of the good times we've shared, so let's not say goodbye. Besides, this isn't the end, it's only the beginning. High school is just a short chapter in our lives. The rest is unwritten, so what happens next is completely up to you. There's only so many pages in your book, make the most of them. Live them to the fullest, fill them to the brim with your memories, your experiences. Some of the chapters will be the most joyous while others not so much. We are all going to have those times when the page wrinkles or tears, but we have to be able to realize there is a new one to follow. We just have to be strong enough to turn the page and move on. And when you don't think you can, remember the wise words of a silly, old bear "you are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think."

So until we meet again, I wish you the best in all of your endeavors. Stay classy class of 2014.