

# **Salutatorian Speech**

## **By Terrance Cameron**

About a week ago, I was sitting on my couch looking for inspiration for my graduation speech. Staring blankly at my computer trying to think of some wise, motivational advice for all of my classmates here, I realized... I'm honestly just as confused about being an adult as every senior here, which is why we have four more years to figure that out. But instead of worrying about what the future holds, I'd rather to reflect on our years here together.

But first I'd like to thank everyone here on behalf of the class of 2018. We could not have made it this far without all the parents, teachers, coaches, and friends in front of us. You were the ones pushing us to do our best from the day we walked into our first day of classes, clinging to your legs, begging you not to leave us in the terrifying, rainbow paved halls of Roosevelt. For the parents who stayed late, so we could master the craft of creating wooden gumball machines. And to the teachers that stayed way after school to help us



to do well on our exams, and that believed in us when we definitely didn't believe in ourselves. And a special thanks to our guidance department, for doing so much more than just guiding us towards our next chapter of our lives. And of course, we can't forget Ms. Lasher.

I decided to look back on last year's salutatorian speech, where he thanked Ms. Lasher for unblocking snapchat. But since it was re-blocked, all I can do is just beg you to just keep Instagram. But we also need to thank you for everything else you've done for us. For supporting us at every sports event, for coming into every AP class to give us your speeches, and most importantly, for implementing mandatory lanyards after we graduated. So to everyone joining us on this beautiful day, thanks for keeping us up when we felt down, right there when we felt left out, and stuck behind us when we were too scared to move forward, on our long journey to our high school graduation.

Many of us started in Roosevelt, where we mastered the art of macaroni smiley faces and 3-legged races, but we were only getting started. We would soon move on to bigger and better things, we weren't walking on rainbow floors anymore, we were bulldogs. We all had our own axe deodorant,

mismatched socks, and bowl cuts. Our lunches glowed in the dark, our braces were too tight, and we had way too many silly bandz.

Despite the jokes, Vernon laid the foundation for us to become the people we are today, and taught us many of the values we live by as seniors. One thing was for sure though, we couldn't wait for high school.

When the day finally came, and we set our alarms for the ungodly hour of 7 o'clock, we were finally ready for high school. It was here that we learned sewing, calculus, and the true meaning of procrastination. We learned that the world was our oyster; almost immediately we had nearly 30 varsity sports to choose from, different bands, clubs to join, or even our own clubs to create. High school was our opportunity to branch out, explore our interests, and to grow as people in both character and height. (well... except for Juliette). As we grew, we've made friends for life. Some who we've known since our first day of kindergarten, and others who joined us later in our journey, from home and abroad. Whether we were waking up at 5 for Pont review class or for senior sunrise, the memories we made here will last for a long time to come.

With a class size of 125 kids, we all know everyone's first, last, and middle names, and for such a small class, we've had no shortage notable moments as a class together, from dropping our calculators at exactly 1 o'clock during our math regents, to someone losing their pants on the college trip.

Whether we were petitioning for panini machines and slushies in Vernon or winning homecoming all 4 years, our grade has always shown great potential. We have Ivy league students, a D1 bound state champ, county champs all around, vloggers, and aspiring musicians, from the choir to jazz band. And one thing that is great about our small community is that we cherish these accomplishments, and show everyone and their mother what's going on in the small town of Oyster Bay. It's hard to walk through town without seeing a familiar face, and every single student here is part of some effort to give back to the tight knit community that gave us so much. Because, in Oyster Bay, we take care of our own, supporting each other every step of the way. And I know I speak for everyone here that there has been nobody

we've loved spending time with more than our very own homecoming king and queen. Both Nick and Megan have been a bright spot in our lives, ones that have given so much to the community in more ways than they know, and I hope that we can someday give as much back.

This senior class has grown up with each other, and pushed through the tough times together to finally make it to the end of our first obstacle. We've made it this far, so why stop now. Stay hungry, and shoot for the moon. Each and every senior here is extremely capable, and their talents run far and wide; now is your time to go and show the world. Just make sure that you remember where you came from, and your humble beginnings from the small town of Oyster Bay. Our four years in high school were probably the quickest four years of our lives, but definitely the most memorable so far. Oyster Bay High School will be part of us forever as we continue with our lives. All the memories we made in our short time together will not be forgotten, and I hope we can all make more together. I'm glad to call all 125 of you my friends, and I look forward to seeing your great accomplishments in the future.

So thank you to everyone once again for supporting me and the class of 2018 in our next step in life; this community has supported and stuck with us through our highs and lows, and I know we will do the same.

There are some special thank you's I would like to give out as well. First, to my grandma, who does nothing but spoil me every day. I appreciate you doing every single thing for me, even if I don't always show it. And I would also like to thank my parents for instilling their values in me, and always being there for me no matter what.

If there is one thing I would like to leave you to remember with, it is this quote from The Office's very own Michael Scott, "Don't ever, for any reason, do anything to anyone, for any reason, ever, no matter what. No matter where. Or who, or who you are with, or where you are going, or where you've been... ever. For any reason, whatsoever." Congratulations again to the class of 2018 and thank you!