

I'd like to start by obviously thanking all the teachers and staff here at GCHS for everything you've done in the past 4 years. I would also like to thank all the teachers and staff from the years before high school. You set us up with the tools to continue building our lives. Without your efforts, things would definitely be different. You have given us an education to not only boost our careers but to start living a legacy where we will be remembered by the world for the great things we have done for it. As we move on to bigger and better things, we should always keep in mind our humble beginnings. As we grow older, we will find out it is more important to not muse over where we are, but to remember those who got us there. Specifically, the community we have grown up in has created for us a powerful foundation to succeed.

Growing up in a small town definitely has its challenges, however, its advantages far outweigh any of its hardships. I believe our class has a specific edge over any other students out there. We have had the good fortune to live in Garden County where there are a multitude of doors for opportunity. This community has nurtured us from the time we started going to school 15 years ago. They saw the potential in us and supported our goals no matter how large. For example, going through school, we have been able to grow just as fast as technology has. With the implementation of new computers and other technologies, we have earned experience not all other students have gained. Small town living has allowed us to create deeper networks of people unmatched by any other place. The atmosphere of everybody knows everybody will work in our favor in the future. Overall, we are now able to start our post-secondary life with a bit of a head start from others.

I firmly believe we are meant to live this life to change others. In this modern world, we have all the capabilities to venture where we want and create things others have never been able to. It is our responsibility to succeed. Wherever we may go, we shall leave a path of

greatness and remembrance behind. Altogether, our lives ahead can be summed up in the following way: if opportunity doesn't come knocking, build a door.

In closing, we have a long road ahead of us with many forks and intersections. We may choose to take the travelled part, but the option is open to pave our own path. Education never ends and is a lifelong process. The most important thing to take away from high school is we should never give in and never give up. May all of us conquer our goals and create seemingly unreachable ones thereafter, only to conquer those as well. Would life be worth it without any conflict to defeat or milestones to surpass?

Fellow classmates, no matter what you decide to do after today, do it well. Find something you truly enjoy and pool everything you have towards it. If you think about it, there is no reason not to put all your time, talent, and efforts towards something you believe is worth the world. At the end of the day, having the aptitude to go to sleep every night unweighted by regrets is the ultimate goal. From here on out, we have total control over our lives and what we make of it. Life is short enough, all our decisions count. So make sure to not only dream big, but to follow through even bigger.