

Green Run High School
2013 Valedictory Address
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A question has followed each of us throughout our twelve years in school. The dreamers have answered with ‘astronaut’ and ‘princess’ and ‘president,’ while the more practical have responded with ‘teacher’ and ‘doctor’ and ‘lawyer.’ Some keep their response the same, and others change their minds as they learn more. I have come to realize that high school was not meant to teach us who invented the cotton gin or the capitals of the fifty states, it was meant to inspire us towards whatever goals we may hold. The question, “What do you want to be when you’re older?” is not answered by what we have been taught, it is answered by what we want to learn and what we have been inspired to pursue.

Throughout high school, we may not remember those that helped us to understand Biology or Math or English, we will remember those that have made us want to learn such subjects. I am lucky to have met such wonderful teachers along the years like Mrs. Burnette and Mr. Wahlgren who have a remarkable passion for their subject and a unique patience in dealing with people like me who are just awful at English and Government. In recognition of the people that have shaped and guided our past, I’d like to speak about where our future leads.

Whether you’re off to college, joining the job market, fighting in the military, or you don’t know quite what to do yet, I think we’re all bonded by a common joy that high school is finally over. I still remember, a hundred years ago, on the first day of school, realizing just how painful it is to get up at 6:00 a.m. From now on there won’t be any J-Labs, any study hall, any hall passes. But in all seriousness, I think Green Run has changed us all for the better and hosted too many good memories to count. In the years that come, we may miss the close relationships forged during our time together. Friends you could laugh with, complain with, and talk to when the weight of school work and responsibility felt too much. People who have left you with something,

be it newfound confidence, ambition, or kindness, and who will never truly leave you. In the years that come, we may see each other again, not as classmates or graduates, but as friends who have embarked on life and simply gone separate ways.

In the next few months, our drive and focus will be tested. While we may not have to get up before dawn to learn about mitosis, there will be other challenges set for us. And it is only through what we have learned over the past few years that we will thrive in the future.

I am grateful to have been a part of such a wonderful class of Green Run graduates. We will all miss the friendships that kept us afloat and the people that have carried us through harder times. To people like my father, who I would never have succeeded without his kindness and wisdom, thank you all.