

# Farewell

I have been dreading and anticipating doing this speech for months. But as I'm standing here looking around, it kind of just clicked, I am graduating today, so I guess I really don't have anything to lose, whether I bomb this speech or not. Building up to this occasion there has been a lot of reminiscing done by myself and my classmates, realizing there are a lot of people who got us here and we have learned a lot of lessons along the way. First off I'd like to thank all of you that are here today, you've watched us grow, you've taught us your own lessons and now you're here to support us during this monumental moment.

I have been attending school in Vernonia since my first day of preschool. That day was that beginning of many new lessons I, along with my classmates, would learn. Fortunately back then life was a lot simpler. For instance, at 5 I thought my life's profession was to work at Walmart. I still remember my first day of kindergarten, Rowan Cheney walked up to me and merely asked me "Will you be my friend?" I said "Yes." It was that easy. From that first encounter I learned you don't need to overdo things, in the end it's the small things that matter, people will remember you by how you treated them. In kindergarten, thanks to Mrs. Nice, my class learned you get

what you get and you don't throw a fit. We also learned: treat others the way you want to be treated. We sometimes still have to remind ourselves of this lesson today.

The next thing we knew we were in middle school. In 7<sup>th</sup> grade from Mr. Aubin we learned to always have flood insurance, even if it seems ridiculous at the time and in Mrs. Ward's 8<sup>th</sup> grade health class the girls learned one of my personal favorite lessons, which was we could use our bra as a purse.

In high school we started to learn lessons from our peers vs. from our teachers. We learned leaving banana peels in the hallway for someone to slip on apparently only works in cartoons. We learned the best way to get over scholarship anxiety, take note underclassmen, is to lie on the floor in the library and vent to Dana Hyde. But of course I'd still like to thank our teachers for the lessons they have shown us. By the time of graduation Mr. Baker taught us how to laugh at ourselves even if no one else thinks it's funny and Mr. Brown taught us how to take a proper time out.

Finally I'd like to share with everyone lessons I've learned from my family. These very lessons have helped mold me into the



person I am today. The first is to never sacrifice your beliefs or who you are. Second, if high school is the best four years of your life you've peaked way too early. Finally, sisters don't only come from across the house, but they come from across the world. I know every person in our class has people they want to thank, so my advice to them is do it before it's too late, our class knows first-hand life brings many changes. I mean for Pete's sake our freshman year we were in modulars and now we are in this spectacular new school.

And now my advice to all of you in the audience, take lots of pictures of us getting our diplomas. Thank you!

*Samantha Wallace  
Co-Valedictorian*

