

Class of 2011 Salutatorian speech

SABRINA VAN TASSEL

One of my favorite quotes in the world was spoken by John Lennon. He said, "When I was five years old, my mother always told me that happiness was the key to life. When I went to school, they asked me what I wanted to be when I grew up. I wrote down 'happy'. They told me I didn't understand the assignment. I told them they didn't understand life." This quote is something we all should think about and try to live by.

Happiness is something everybody needs. When life gets too stressful, take advantage of the simple things and make it easier. For some people, that might be their favorite song. Listen to it. For others, a favorite pair of sweats or a favorite snack. Put them on and chill. Eat the snack. Whatever it may be for you, always remember to take a few minutes out of your day to get happy.

James Oppenheim said, "The foolish

man seeks happiness in the distance, the wise grows it under his feet." Don't wait for happiness to reach you. Go out and grab it. Make it for yourself. If you aren't happy, you won't get anywhere. Miserable people tend to be the ones who only worry about getting paid. They don't enjoy their work. Don't be one of those people. Go out and experiment with different careers until you find something you love to do. Once you get to that point, you'll never work another day in your life.

Each and every one of you needs to look back on the last four years and think about how truly happy you've been. If you haven't been happy, now is the perfect time to make some changes, start over, and make yourself happy. If you have been happy, try to incorporate what you have been doing in to your career choice. Either way, live happily.



(Photo by Dan Mancuso, *Illinois Valley News*)

2011 Salutatorian Sabrina Van Tassel sings the class song "Time of our lives" by Green Day

Congratulations to all the students moving up and on!



(Photo by Dan Mancuso, *Illinois Valley News*)

Students wave flowers while Sabrina Van Tassel sings the class song Wednesday, June 8. One of the many happy students graduating June 8.