

Switch on the Light

I would like to start off by thanking the staff for making my time here at Portage great, and I would also like to thank all of you for coming out tonight to support the graduates.

When I found out that I HAD to write a speech for graduation, you can only IMAGINE how excited I was. I mean, I was basically living every high schooler's dream by having to write ANOTHER ESSay; however, as I started thinking about what to write I realized that I wasn't FORCED to write this speech, rather I GOT to. I was given the opportunity to speak today, and that's what high school is all about ... opportunity. Opportunity is defined as a set of circumstances that make it possible to do something. To me it means that opportunity grants each and every one of us the chance to learn, grow, succeed, and even fail. However, regardless of what happens, opportunity will always pave the way forward in the end.

We all know that equal opportunity is not given to everyone. In fact, opportunity is rarely GIVEN at all. The simple truth is, opportunity is CREATED not given. Opportunity is forged through hard work and effort. Take graduating high school for example. Graduating will allow us to meet new people, experience new things, and further expand our understanding of the world outside of Portage. However, just because these things CAN happen once we leave high school, does not necessarily mean that they WILL happen. It's easy to get swept up in the comfortable day to day experiences. Therefore, we each need to make the decision to look for these opportunities throughout the day. Otherwise, they may pass us by without us ever knowing.

So, just pay attention throughout the day and opportunities will show themselves. Sounds easy, right? Well ... no. Finding opportunity is not always easy. Sometimes we have to jump into the unknown. The problem is, the unknown can be frightening. It's like...heading into a dark

room when you were a kid. Maybe you felt scared or unsure because you didn't know if there were 'monsters under the bed', but when you turned the light switch on you were okay because you knew there was nothing there. Don't let the unknown be the darkness that stops you from turning on the light. Take the opportunity, flip the switch, and let it guide you to success.

As I near the end of my speech, I would like to say that I hope you all enjoy my speech more than my twin brother's so I can get the uhhh... OPPORTUNITY to have bragging rights. In all seriousness, I would like to congratulate my fellow classmates as we have all finally made it to graduation, and I encourage you all, along with the audience, not to shy away from the unknown, but rather create and embrace the opportunities that lead you into it. Right now, you have the opportunity to shape your life however you'd like, so create the opportunities, don't let them pass you by, and live your life to the fullest. Thank you.