Oh the Places You’ll Go

First, I’d like to start by thanking the administration for organizing a great graduation and for the support you’ve shown us throughout our high school careers. I’d also like to thank everyone here for the support our friends and family have overwhelmed us with that has gotten us to this point. I'd also like to preface my speech by saying I’m not one for public speaking, but I don’t think anyone will mind if I keep the short and sweet.

We did it everyone, we’re here. I have had the honor of getting to know and share memories with each and every one of you, and I am endlessly grateful for that. Since elementary school I knew we had a close- knit group when we had to have “a talk” with Mrs. Pisarski in the sixth grade about our “poor behavior”... I like to think we just enjoyed talking to each other, maybe a little too much. To me, we always have been a class where everyone talks to everyone and where we all feel very comfortable with one another.

In 2020 there was a life-changing announcement saying we would have two weeks off school which forced us to be away from those classmates who we loved to see every day. I was excited to have a break from school, but those 2 weeks turned into a long and painful year and a half. I didn’t want to talk about Covid originally in my speech, but I realized how relevant it was to our years in school. I mean, do you guys remember the last normal year we had… yeah me neither. Many people's favorite classes, after school clubs and sports were put on hold for what felt like forever. Don’t get me wrong I did enjoy the little laughs I had online when the teachers struggled for 20 minutes or so with tech issues or when some of us would fall asleep right in front of our cameras, but I 100% prefer things the old way. None of us thought we would have to worry about living through a terrible pandemic in the middle of our high school careers, but we did and I believe it allowed us to truly cherish the moments we spend together even more. It made the class of 2022 even more inseparable. When things began to get back to normal, I found myself complaining less about schoolwork, it was better than learning nothing or staring at a screen for 6 hours a day. When my classmates made weird crow noises in the halls, I learned to laugh more. I even cherished the time I spent in biology doing labs where me and my lab partner Lauren really had absolutely no idea what we were doing. Our unexpected years of high school helped us to always remember to look at the bright side and what wonderful things can come from uncertain times.

Now here we are in 2022, graduating and moving on from high school. I think we should all, rather than focusing on the sadness of moving on, look at our futures and the endless possibilities to come. Thank you all for giving me such an amazing experience here. I am so very excited to see you all succeed in whatever your goals are. Whether that be going to work right after high school, joining the military, or furthering your education, I know all of you all are capable of giving yourselves wonderful futures full of happiness and prosperity. I’m both excited and nervous to see the future Dr. Canavan, Physical Therapist Tanner Trusik, Private Sossong, and whatever else your futures hold. As Dr. Seuss once said “You’re off to great places! Today is your day. You’re Mountain is waiting… so go on your way!”.

Thank you.