

As the seniors come to receive their diplomas, I will be reading special remarks written by them, their families, or friends.

James Baek

James would like to thank his family, friends, teachers, and coaches for everything they've done and for getting him to where he is today. Next year he'll be studying abroad in Rome with USC, hoping to embody Ellie Fredricksen's belief "Adventure is out there!"

Connor Barringer

It looks like I took Dory's advice a little too seriously.

Helena Maria Elfin Bartkowski

Helena was a precocious and charming child, often described as an "old soul" by family and strangers alike. Now she's a precocious and charming teenager, who has made "old souls" of us all! She's a talented, intelligent, and insightful Renaissance woman with a mind of her own and the grit to match.

Akasha Justice Brown

Akasha's good friend writes, We wouldn't be surprised to see you throw off your graduation gown to reveal a sparkly pink dress crafted by actual fairies. Promise that when you're an environmental lawyer, Broadway star, and real-life PowerPuff Girl, you'll remember all of us who cheered for you from day one.

Maximilian Charles Burke

Ray Bradbury said, "Stuff your eyes with wonder, live as if you'd drop dead in ten seconds. See the world. It's more fantastic than any dream made or paid for in factories."

Katherine Margaret Calciano

Katie's diploma will be presented by her mother, York Trustee Marilyn Calciano.

Your brothers, Bears from Wash U and Cal  
Are concerned with your next year's locale  
Now that you'll be a Bruin  
We all fear for your ruin  
Don't forget you're a Santa Cruz gal!

Maegan Capistrano

Salutations my friend,

You've amazed me in so many ways. I've seen you trip in mid-air and you've made a wonderful digital portrait of me. We've head butted while watching romcoms. I'll cherish our inside jokes and I can't wait to hear about your adventures in New York.

—Jona

Cindy Chen

Dr. Cristina Yang said: "Have some fire. Be unstoppable. Be a force of nature. Be better than anyone here and don't give a damn about what anyone thinks."

Jona Victoria Cruz

"What haven't I said already? I've showered you in so many compliments it's embarrassing and used my limited knowledge of ASL to tell you you're beautiful and your dancing sucks. You're amazing, and I'm glad to be graduating with you. To end it on an inside joke, gym bag.

--Maegan"

Navid Daliri

Navid agrees with Ferris Bueller: "I've said it before and I'll say it again. Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around every once in a while, you could miss it." He adds, Thank you class of 2019.

Sophia Catherine Davies

Before our roads diverge, I would like to honor the friends who have been steadfast and true, the teachers who have guided and inspired me, and my family who has molded me into who I have become.

Philip Luke DeCocco

On my honor, I will do my best  
To do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout  
Law;  
To help other people at all times;  
To keep myself physically strong, mentally awake and morally  
straight.

Sophie Ash Frumkin

Ash's diploma will be presented by her mother, York Trustee Christina Falco. Ash quotes Neil Gaiman who said, "Now go, and make interesting mistakes, make amazing mistakes, make glorious and fantastic mistakes. Break rules. Leave the world more interesting for you being here. Make good art."

Linett Garcia

Gracias a dios y a mis padres, esto fue posible. Sin ellos, hoy no estuviera aquí. Mamá, papá, quiero decirles que todo su esfuerzo valdrá la pena y estaré eternamente agradecida por todo lo que han hecho y continuarán haciendo. Esto es por ustedes y para ustedes.

James Mather Gonzales

Mr. Peanutbutter once incorrectly said, “The key to being happy isn’t a search for meaning. It’s to just keep yourself busy with unimportant nonsense.” It turns out that *attendance* is somewhat important.

Emma Leigh Hood

Emma’s younger brother Robert shares, “Even though my sister listens to country music and drives a minivan, she’s still pretty okay. To this day, I get a good laugh when she attempts to pour a glass of milk without spilling (which is rare). But she never gives up and has the same quick wit and heart of gold as her grandpa.”

Kevin Minhyuk Kang

I've figured out that I've spent around 20,275,200 seconds of my life at York. Give or take 7,603,200 seconds. How did it all go by so fast? It seems that it was just yesterday when I had a Justin Bieber bowl cut.

Tristen Rainier McAllister Laney

As Albert Einstein is said to have written, "There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle."

Cynthia Olive Lee

Yeeet!

Lexseal Lin

College explorers between the lines. Three, two, one, de de de du de du.

Madeline Rose Litman

These past years have been some of the best of my life, as I've made amazing memories, gained wonderful friendships, and learned so much about myself and others. And because of a promise I made Jill a few years ago, here are my final words: Dr. Scott! Brad! Janet! Rocky! BULLWINKLE!

Cici Lu

During her 5 years at York, Cici has discovered how to use her growth and passion to deal with challenges and follow her dreams. In the words of fashion photographer Bill Cunningham, "Fashion is the armor to survive the reality of everyday life." We wish you the best!

Arjun Mayur

I want to thank everyone in my life for laughing at my jokes when they aren't funny, not getting too annoyed when I mention, for the millionth time, that I did a Ted talk, and for dealing with my temper tantrums (that's for you mom and dad). I can't wait to be a Golden Bear!

James Patrick Pasinosky

"Shoot for the stars, so if you fall you land on a cloud," said Kanye West. I thank everyone who made my York experience the best it could be and look forward to pursuing the next chapter of my life as I venture out into this beautiful world.

Sophie Elizabeth Rasmussen

This might not be Hogwarts, but hopefully next year from my dorm room in London I can catch a glimpse of Diagon Alley.

Donald MacKay Ratcliff

Ain't nothin' gonna break my stride  
Nobody gonna slow me down, oh no  
I got to keep on movin'  
Ain't nothin' gonna break my stride  
I'm running and I won't touch ground  
Oh no, I got to keep on movin'

Cameron Wayne Ritchie

Cameron would like to say thank you to his family and the York community for all their support, guidance, and encouragement over the years. This summer, Cameron will be traveling to Israel as well as working as a State Park Lifeguard. Next year, he'll be continuing his education at UC Santa Barbara where he intends to study International Relations.

Cynthia May Rong

As Stephen Hawking said, "Quiet people have the loudest minds."

Cynthia's mom wants to tell her that

"All roads lead to Rome,  
from Monterey to Rome,  
from York School to York Hall.

She is not wrong,  
she is Cynthia Rong."

Maxwell Adam Rosenblum

Paraphrasing Avicii, Max says, When you get older, your wild life will live for younger days. Think of that if ever you're afraid. One day you'll leave this world behind, so live a life you will remember. I was told this when I was just a child, these are the nights that never die.

Adam Gabriel Shapiro

“Adam Shapiro, you're cleared for takeoff” (sound of an airplane taking off).

Alexander Hanrui Shi

I'm glad I took only four years to graduate.

Thomas Curran Siletto

"As Benjamin Hammond Haggerty says,  
Don't try to change the world, find something that you love  
And do it every day  
Do that for the rest of your life  
And eventually, the world will change."

Andrew Ashford Simpson

High school is a lot. It's chem labs, history skits, math equation dances, and brains. It's bubbles in the Commons and crepes in French. It's naps in the library and jam sessions in the chapel. It's rolling backpacks, onesies, a string of beads, and succulents. It's awkward, fun, frustrating, confusing, and unforgettable. Oh, and it's community and woodchips, too, of course.

Shloak Sinha

"If you're walking down the right path and you're willing to keep walking, eventually you'll make progress." - Barack Obama

Skylar Mackenzie Smith

I want to thank my parents and the York community for helping me to realize the value of a community. I'll take the community spirit with me to college and become a valued member of that community. One final thought... "That's all folks!"

Samantha Louise Smock

Some people think my parents named me after my dad's father, Samuel, and my mom's grandmother, Louise, but really, I was named after my mom's cat. At least when she named Sam the Cat all the way back in 1987, she chose something other than Whiskers.

Sophia Alise Taylor-Home

“The most effective way to do it is to do it,” said Amelia Earhardt. And so, when you dreamed of becoming a pilot, you did it. Keep your face turned toward the light, Sunflower Girl, and never stop dreaming or doing. Even the sky is no limit for you!

Adela Samsara Turlington

Adela says, with Winnie the Pooh, "How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard."

Kaya Matsumi Von Berg

From Winnie the Pooh to the Saddle Club  
and then on to Grey's Anatomy.

Started off with horses at Medicine Wheel,  
and ended with Riding Academy.

Reads to stay current,  
learned to write with such passion  
stories of mystery and thrills.

Maybe someday you'll get lucky with this  
and get a job that'll pay all OUR bills

Cambell Ruth Walker

Everyone has their own music. Not everyone will be in  
harmony. Learning to work through our dissonances and lives  
will allow us to hear others' songs from different perspectives.  
The point is to make the best of and learn the most from each  
new song.

Alexander Paul Warzycki

Your exterior, calm as ever; your interior, full of excitement,  
wonder & energy. Go pursue your dreams. Steve Jobs said,  
"Your time is limited, don't waste it living someone else's life.  
Don't let the noise of others' opinions drown your inner voice.  
...have the courage to follow your heart and intuition." Let  
your inner sparks turn into fireworks!

Alex Wei  
Adios.

Kathleen Arabella Whilden

Shout out to all my friends, buddies, pals, homies, and top-notch educators, thanks for all you've done and sticking through it. It's been lit y'all, it truly has. This is it for us; so it goes; we outtie.

Isabelle Rose Quinn Witt

Now that my brother Jack and I have both graduated, York has lost its Witts.

Jerry Zewei Wu

Is this the real life?  
Is this just fantasy?  
Caught in a landslide  
No escape from reality  
Open your eyes  
Look up to the skies and see

Henry Xiang

You'll be remembered fondly as the student with shoes for any and all occasions!

In the words of one of your favorite rappers, Drake: Never let success get to your head and never let failure get to your heart. Your families—in China and Monterey—are proud of you.

Chenkai Yao

"Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do, so throw off the bowlines, sail away from safe harbor, catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore, dream, discover." - Sarah Frances Brown

Kathryn Irene Yeager

As our time here at York comes to an end, I think Andy Bernard said it best: "I wish there was a way to know you're *in* the good old days - before you've actually left them."