

Valedictorian Address
by
Katie Calciano

Good morning to the faculty, trustees, family and friends, and of course, my classmates.

Over my 5 years at York, I've learned so many important things. Not only academics, but also life lessons. I've learned to appreciate the countless incredible opportunities I've been given, how to create strong and trusting friendships, and that in life, as in math, the limit does not exist. As I have matured, my outlook on life has become more optimistic and focused on creating strong relationships—and I believe York played a large part in instilling this quality and appreciation in me.

I want to give a shoutout to Mr. B. The Bvan was a huge part of my York experience, sometimes feeling like too huge a part of my experience on those 55 minute drives. I remember bragging that I was from Santa Cruz or that I was friends with an upperclassman (solely because they were in the Bvan and were forced to spend two hours a day with me...).

There's no denying that York is really unique place. Every time I see woodchips, I'll think fondly back on York. Everytime I see a plane I'll think of York—well maybe more of Adam to be honest. Every time I see my future school lose a football game, I'll think of York... just kidding!

But speaking of York sports! I can't stress how much I loved playing on several different sports teams here. I met so many amazing students and coaches that I wouldn't be the same without.

Whenever I was exhausted from club sports or school, I always had my school practice to look forward to. As soon as I walked on the court, field or into the pool, I would see the face of a smiling teammate and be reminded of why I joined. The spirit on every team is constantly uplifting. Although we may make fun of Mr. Harmon for his repetition, I have to admit, the *community* at York both on and off the field, are what makes it such an amazing place. I will miss every person who played a part in making this sunny hilltop such a welcoming school.

I want to thank my dad for inspiring me to push my boundaries through a variety of activities. Without these often thrilling--and usually life threatening--events, my life would be lacking a lot of excitement.

And of course I want to thank my mom for being an inspiration in countless ways, being my traveling, cooking, and workout partner.

And to my brothers for always being there for me when I couldn't handle the aforementioned parents I am "so thankful for."

Lastly, I want to thank my grandpa who recently passed for giving me the most loving family I could ever ask for and countless friends for life. You inspired greatness and instilled in me a love of spending time with family and prioritizing it; I love you.

Without these people in my life, and countless others, I would not be who I am today.

But enough about me. Now I want to congratulate my fellow classmates. Through many ups and downs, we have finally made it. We started as small 8th graders or freshman and now here we are, essentially the same, but several inches taller and hopefully a little bit smarter! Thank you all for being amazing classmates and friends. I can't wait to see where the world takes us all, but I know in my heart that every single person sitting here has the capability to reach whatever goal they want and I am beyond excited to see what everyone will be doing 10 years from now. If you made it through York, you can make it through anything.

So now I'm gonna change the pace up a bit. As some of you may know, my mom is well known for her wedding roasts and toasts, so I stole an idea of hers--unbeknownst to her. This is the last thing I have to say today so bare with me:

Twass the night before graduation when all through the town,
Every senior was stirring, searching for their gowns.
Their dresses and suits were hung with care,
In hope that over at York, Chuck Harmon would soon be there!

The Yorkies were nestled all snug in their beds,
While visions of diplomas danced in their heads.
The class of '19 finished decorating their caps,
And eventually settled down for a nice long nap

When all of a sudden the sound of a buzzer,
Woke all of the children with a chilling shudder.
They finally arose after the third or fourth snooze,
And slowly put on their uncomfortable shoes.

Escape while we can—though York's pull is strong,
Our time is now, to get out of this throng
While great memories were made and good times were had
The future contains more, and for that I am glad

Against all odds, at last the day came
Joyce Sherry will call us out each name by name,

Now Sophie now Belle now Connor and Maddie!
Now James now Cam then Arjun and Katie!
To all of my friends I say do not stall
Now dash away dash away dash away all!

We gathered our things, but before we could leave,
Appeared Mr. Harmon with a mic up his sleeve!

He was dressed in a suit from his head to his foot
And told us all we had to stay put
A bundle of diplomas he had flung on his back
But much to our dismay, there were no class meeting snacks!

His eyes how they twinkled, his smile how merry
Like a weight off his shoulder had just been carried!
For he finally is rid of the class of 19
And everyone smiles for the depart of these teens

We have the best faculty I have to brag
And we'll miss those that pronounce it bay-g instead of bag
It's hard to imagine not having these teachers
They have become like family, watching our sports in the bleachers

Now to all the graduates I say congrats,
Hopefully we'll succeed enough in life to fly first class
But remember the things in life that matter,
Like honesty, respect, responsibility and don't cause a clatter!

We've all learned a lot in this 4 year span
But most importantly we learned who really spilled the milk in the van
So as we sit here and smile at the cam
Don't forget what we learned with Ms. Berry about yams!

This is the end of era some might say
And we leave York down several pathways
Our parents awaited this day no doubt
But leave us a bed at home for when we come about

I'll end this thing now so I don't cause a strife

Happy graduation to all, and to all a good life!

Valedictorian Address
by
Adam Shapiro

Okay before I get started, there's one thing everyone here should know about me: I like airplanes. Now that we've established that, I'd like to answer a question that everyone who knows me has been asking themselves for the last five years. The answer is yes, I chose to attend York because it is located directly under the flight path to Monterey airport. I know this is true because the only thing I remember from the first York Admissions event I attended was looking up at an airplane and thinking "okay this is epic."

Naturally, when I began attending York in eighth grade, I spent most of the day with my head turned towards the sky. In order to maximize my planespotting experience, I would always eat alone at a spot by the science building which affords an excellent view of the runway at Monterey airport. One day, While I was eating lunch and watching airplanes, a group of seniors at a table nearby noticed me sitting alone and cordially invited me to dine with them. Being a feeble eight-grader, I lacked the temerity to reject their proposition and shuffled over to the table, which unfortunately put me out of sight of the runway. I awkwardly sat through lunch, and the next day, I went back to my bench and watched airplanes.

Now, obviously, by inviting me over to their table, these well-intentioned seniors robbed me of my airport view; however, as with many things, it is not the result but the intention that counts. By inviting me to eat with them, those seniors sent me a very clear message: you are welcome here. As the months went on, I learned that this was not an unusual act of kindness, but a common occurrence at York. Throughout my time here, I have grown to appreciate the welcoming group of people that populate this campus.

As my class and I have grown, we have had the wonderful experience of welcoming new students on to campus who will keep York strong in our absence. Now that it is time to go, our job is to carry this welcoming atmosphere with us wherever our paths take us. Invite someone to have lunch with you. They might hate you for disrupting their plane spotting but they will not miss the message that they are valued and loved.

Never thought I'd make it.

Well, class of 2019, We made it!

Congratulations and good luck in your future endeavors!