

Valediction

Ms Hutson, Deacon Iannarino, Mr Urquhart, faculty, parents, friends and fellow classmates, I welcome you. And at this, the day on which we celebrate our graduation, I say goodbye. As we the class of two thousand fourteen bid our loving mother farewell, we turn our sights to new endeavors and begin to select for ourselves a new home in the world.

Our graduation from high school marks a time of many and wonderful changes in our lives. Of the many changes which might mark a young person's life, none can match the distinction held by his passage into adulthood, the same transition marked by our celebration today. Our many years of schooling and extracurriculars, our stress in the face of exams and our anticipation of college decisions have all come to pass and their consequence now pales in light of the journey ahead.

We now enter the world with a new and excellent credential: we can now call ourselves Watterson graduates. To be sure, graduation is a day of significance in any young person's life, but we the graduating class of Bishop Watterson High School are today endowed with something even grander: we now go forth into the world equipped with a Watterson degree. This degree is the key into college for many of us, and a workforce-credential for those of us taking different paths, but more importantly, it is a symbol of our time spent in these halls, the formative years which we spent in the nurturing environment of Watterson. These years were marked by our growth as individuals, our coming together as a community, and our development into the fruitful leaders and moral role models who now take the stage as graduates.

These four years have been perhaps the most formative of our lives. We who entered as a group of meek freshman, largely unfamiliar to one another, now exit a tight-knit community, with friendships that will last a lifetime. Even beyond the walls of Watterson, high school tends to catch its students at a time of rapid change. In these past four years we transformed from middle schoolers into adults. We were faced with two hundred strangers, and we managed to find for ourselves a group with whom we could enjoy these years. We took the roads as licensed drivers and for the first time, the world now felt a little smaller. And now, as we go forth into the world and continue to grow, this whole world will begin to feel within reach.