

*(Speaker approaches the podium as the crowd takes off their foam fingers, and refrains from continuing the wave. The crowd goes silent, you could hear a pin drop; well maybe not a pin, something slightly louder than that. Just take my word for it there was a perfectly O.K. amount of silence. The speaker steps up to the podium and stares at the audience of around 50,000-100,000, the speaker adjusts his or her versace cap and gown, and begins).*

Hello class of 2014, I am excited and honored to be speaking to you today. I was asked up here to speak because you voted for me. Now I know that there have been some rumors circulating about voter fraud, someone claimed to have seen me stuffing the ballot boxes with a few hundred votes for my name, and others have pointed out that more people voted for my speech than attend the school, but I can assure that all of those people have been properly disposed of.

Now down to business, let's talk about what we are all here for, Graduation. we have done it, we have made it through four of the most interesting years of our lives. We have progressed through four years of academic and social challenges. It reminds me of a great quote from Dr. Ghilani "we started from the bottom now we're here". *(talks off to the side)* What? Dr. Ghilani didn't say that, it was Drake; and they are not the same person, ok, alright, yeah I got it, we'll get it right next time. *(faces the crowd once again)*. Well, I have learned many things here at Upper St. Clair High School let's just say that fact checking wasn't one of them.

It's weird to be leaving this place, we have spent so much time here. 7 hours, five days a week for four years, that's like *(counts on his fingers)* a lot of hours. Not even counting all the time that we have spent here for clubs, sports, forensics, or the musical. All of these activities that depleted us of time for academics or a social life; but by the end they were all worth it. All that time in the high school has taught us some pretty valuable lessons. We have all learned how

to write a homework assignment in the 15 minutes that homeroom has to offer, or that avoiding getting kicked out of the library is more of an art than a science. These lessons have showed me the value of a high school experience. Alright now its time for the trite mention of Freshman year and how small we were then and how now we were the big bad seniors, well maybe some of you, I myself am not very physically threatening. It goes to show how we have progressed. A ton of stuff happened while we were here, there was an oil spill, a lot of snow, we found Bin-Laden and then lost a plane; it has been a pretty eventful four years. I feel as though I have grown up during these four years, when I first entered into the high school I was a child and now I leave here a slightly larger child. I have refrained from nuggeting and zip-tying people's backpacks, but I still devote a significant amount of time to pickleball.

I feel pretty certain that we will be able to take the lessons that we have learned and use them in the future. Think about the next few years of your, life it's really exciting isn't it? Everyone here has a different college that they are going to, a new job that they are starting or just a new journey that they are going to embark upon. It's like those choose your own adventure stories that we used to read as kids. I am hoping that these stories end a little differently and this time I don't get eaten by crocodiles. I am not really sure what is going to happen, but I am sure that everyone here is going to make something of their future.

As I look out into the crowd I see a group of people who is excited to begin their future, who think that the last four years were fun, but know that the fun has only just begun, who are going to take all the positive and negative experiences from high school, learn from them, and use them to make their future that much better; or who just want me to stop talking I'm not really sure which.

We have all lived through a very interesting four years, four years of late nights, four years of procrastination, four years of new experiences, four years of pantherland, four years of walking through these hallways with the same people. So here I stand before you student, graduate, that kid you would see in the hallway, but didn't really want to talk to because he seemed weird. Mainly I am that person who will to be back here in five or so years for the reunion asking what you have accomplished. I know that every single one of you is capable of doing something that cool, intelligent, or just plain great for humanity. So go on, get, leave, go out and do something. Make whatever happened in that building over there for the last four years a jumping block for whatever you really want to do with your life. High school is over it's time to get started.

*(The stage erupts with fireworks as the speaker backflips off of the stage into a hot air balloon, or just applause; I'll take what I can get).*