

Huntington High School's 151st Commencement

Salutatorian Justin LoScalzo's Address

Welcome to Huntington High School's 151st commencement ceremony. This ceremony marks not only the end of one chapter in the lives of the members of the Class of 2012, but also marks the start of a new and exciting chapter.

I would like to open with a few "thank yous." First and foremost I need to thank my family, in particular, my parents, brother, and sister who have been extremely supportive of me throughout my academic career. I would not be standing here without them. They have all pushed me towards success and have helped me achieve the goals that I have set forth for myself. Next I would like to thank my friends. I am privileged to have met so many wonderful people through this school district. My friends have always been there to provide me with advice and encouragement whenever I have needed it. They have been there for me in good times and bad, and for that I thank them. Finally I would like to thank all of the wonderful teachers and administrators I have had over my thirteen years of education here in the Huntington School District. I have been honored to receive an education from this district and without them it would not have been possible to produce the distinguished group of people who sit before you as the Class of 2012.

Thirteen years ago, many of us began our schooling at Woodhull as Kindergarteners, and here we are today as graduates of Huntington High School. Others began their academic careers elsewhere, but no matter what;

we are all here graduating together. I could not have created a more unique and remarkable group of people who I would want to call my classmates. The Class you see before you is composed of talented and accomplished individuals, including intellectuals, musicians, artists, and athletes. Together these individuals make up not only a Class, but also a family.

It is hard to believe that the time has come that we must say goodbye to the Huntington School District. Time is an interesting thing. It seems to move quickly when we do not want it too, but slowly when we do. For example, the last seconds before a win at a sporting event, or the last seconds of a class we may, well not be as fond of as others, seems to take forever. These seconds appear to last a long time, but as we look back, years have passed by in the blink of an eye. Over the last four years we have developed memories and relationships that will last forever. As we move on in life, it is important to be conscious of time. These four years of high school, we will never be able to redo again. It is as simple as that. Do not attempt to control time that has passed; it is physically impossible. Instead, take control of the present and make the most of it.

Benjamin Franklin once stated, “Dost thou love life? Then do not squander time, for that is the stuff life is made of.” As you move through life, be sure to take advantage of each and everyday: do not put off what you can do today for tomorrow. It is a waste of time, and you can never be sure what tomorrow may bring you. Take advantage of each and every opportunity presented to you in life, because an opportunity today may not be an opportunity tomorrow. Seek out all the passions of your life and be

sure to try new things, they may spark an interest that you never knew existed.

I speak of the importance of taking advantage of time, but the prime aspect of time is to enjoy it. Have the time of your life each and every day. Time is going to fly by over the next couple of years just as the previous years have. Do not forget to take a moment every now and then to reflect on time that has passed, that way you can make the most of the time you have in the future that you have control over. I have always been told that it is not all about where you end up, but how you get there.

Do not take shortcuts in life simply because you want to reach an end goal sooner, you may miss out on the rewards the experience of reaching the end has to offer. The journey is just as important as the destination. Life presents us with challenges each and every day; many times, obstacles that we have no control over. Take the time to overcome these obstacles in a manner that you will be proud of looking back on. If life presents you with a situation you are not particularly fond of, make the most of the situation, and turn into an experience you can learn from and be happy about. If you treat every situation at hand with the utmost of care, there is no way that you will not find happiness and success in what you are doing.

I am confident that each and every member of the Class of 2012 is capable of accomplishing anything in life that they desire. Whether it is becoming a lawyer, doctor, teacher, professional athlete, member of the armed forces, or anything else the imagination can think of; the members of this class can, and will be whatever they want. No matter where you end up

in life, I hope that you will never forget the memories and relationships you have developed here at Huntington High School. Remember to take the time to reflect on events such as today as you move through life. I wish the best of luck to each and every one of my classmates. Congratulations Huntington High School Class of 2012!