Good evening everyone. Faculty, administrators, families, and students, it is truly an honor to be able to speak to you here today. More than an honor actually - Considering the number of times I’ve used the Huntington High School Class of 2015 Facebook group to try and reach most of the students, it’s practically my dream come true to be standing here with the mic all to myself.

Webster’s dictionary defines “Huntington” as “a male given name; meaning “Hunting Estate.” However Urban Dictionary, for those of you familiar with the source, gives us a different definition: “Huntington: Best town in Long Island, New York, and perhaps all of America. It has beaches, good public schools, clean tap water, restaurants for all food types, harbors, marinas, gyms, malls, etc. Also has nearly every fast food joint and car dealership one could want.”

Parents, whether it was the ample supply of car dealerships, or clean tap water that brought you here, I think I can speak for this entire class when I say that our experience in the Huntington school district has made us so grateful you chose this town as the place to raise us.

I started in this district as a five year old at Jefferson Primary. It was a simpler time for sure; most of us were no bigger than*… Dr. Leonardi, but our dreams were boundless.
No matter what you aspired to back in kindergarten, or what you wish to pursue after today, the people here in Huntington have given us so much to help turn those dreams into reality.

Now, although no amount of gratitude could ever be enough to thank all of the faculty, staff, and administrators that brought us to this point, the Senior Class has decided on one way of giving back. Plans are underway to convert the two rooms connected to the cafeteria into one room, to be used as a Senior Lounge. We wanted to add to the privileges our seniors are granted after three years of high school by creating comfortable a space where students can go to relax, socialize, or “do work.”

On the first day of school this year, I got the chance to speak to our entire class. Gathered in the gym, you all listened to me say that we were going to make it a great year, that we had a lot of activities planned and that Homecoming prep was underway. If I could go back now, I don’t think I would have said any of that. I would have told us not to rush it, not to wish every Monday that Friday would come sooner, not to take any second for granted.

I wish I could have warned us about how fast our last year here would pass us by, because tomorrow we’ll have bigger choices than whether or not to say “hi” to the person coming down the hall that you’re sorta friends with but not really sure if it’s gonna make things weird.

Tomorrow there will be obstacles, and mistakes, and failures… yes Caitlin, failures. But at this point, we can either hide from these challenges,
or step forward into the world, ready to take on whatever it has to throw at us. I know that we are absolutely ready to choose the latter.

I said earlier that I was excited to have the chance to finally speak to you all at once. It’s ironic though, because this time, there’s no float party to tell everyone to attend, no spirit day I need you all to dress up for. All of that has been done. Done quite well if I do say so myself… And while I am certainly enjoying the undivided attention, it seems all I have left to say to my fellow classmates is thank you.

Thank you all for making this chapter in our lives, in my life, unforgettable. Congratulations Class of 2015, you are an extraordinary group of people and I am so lucky to have shared this journey with you.