

## SALUTATORIAN SPEECH 2011

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Classmates, alumni, family, friends, Welcome,

People say high school is the best four years of their lives. High school is by no means a negative experience, but there is so much of life ahead of each and every one of us. I want to encourage you to go beyond these four years of high school and do bigger and better things. Never settle for having your **best** behind you. After all, our futures are so bright we need shades.

Each member of the Class of 2011 has had unique experiences that brought us to this exciting moment. Some of us broke water faucets in Mrs. Henderson's class freshman year. Some of us were willing to date for an entire class period just to get help on Spanish homework. Some of us almost didn't graduate because they didn't finish their Speech class. Some of us procrastinated and wasted time. Okay, that was probably all of us. Some of us endured a Tuesday night sleepover with a fire alarm blaring... ALL NIGHT. But that's just some of us.

The class of 2011 is one full of strong personalities. So strong, in fact, we may have scared a few people off. But to those of you who stuck with us, we would like to say thank you. We hope we have found a special place in your hearts. Some teachers definitely have a special place in our hearts. Mrs. Strohsahl has blown up so many things up, but she's always there if you need a hug. Mrs. Williams has invented the month of Maypril, written many amusing typos, and once taught the entire class lying on the floor in agony due to a spinal tap leak, but she has endeared herself to us all and made the potentially boring topic of government the most interesting class I've ever taken at Pine Tree High School. Mrs. Morton has put up with the entire Environmental Science class being hypoglycemic so that we could go to Butcher Shop, she has taken us to a graveyard and a sewage plant, and we know the only reason she yells all the time is because she really wants us to succeed. Mrs. Edmund can be eccentric at

times, sending us to the closet of shame, dodging speed bumps in the Hallsville parking lot, and giving some people a good tug on the ears now and then. But she has always been there, willing to give advice, letting us bring cupcakes and after asking for four years, letting us have a Thanksgiving feast. She pulled us all together, and whether you were a part of Team Edmund, or you had her for Algebra II or Calculus, you know just how special she truly is. Coach McGhee taught us to write cinquains and be courageous. Mrs. Garner threw staplers and sharpies at our heads, but we know she was just really sending us her love.

We have survived quite an assortment of things during our high school careers like fire, floods, gas leaks, tornadoes, hurricanes, and bus wrecks. We lived through them all together. We narrowly missed uniform dress and not having a stadium our senior year. We were the first class on the 4 x 4 and the last class to endure the junior high as freshmen. He have listened to and laughed at many a pirate jokes, and I have one more for you tonight. How much does it cost a pirate to get their ears pierced? A Buc-an-ear! We went through each of these events together and each one has brought us together as the Class of 2011. Jeremiah 29:11 says "For I know the plans I have for you says the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, to give you a hope and future." So remember, don't let these be the best four years of your life. There's a big, exciting world out there, and I can't wait to see what each of you does with the time that's given to you. In the words of Dr. Suess, "You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself in any direction you choose. You're on your own. And you know what you know. You are the guy who'll decide where to go." Thank you.