

Thank you Mr. Riley... It is such an honor to be speaking to you all today. I want to first start off by congratulating my fellow class of 2019. We have worked so hard to get where we are now.

As I stand up here today, I am experiencing the same mixed emotions that all of you are feeling as well: excitement, sadness, and even relief, but I also have fear of the unknown. We have all walked the halls of Marlborough public schools with familiarity, seeing recognizable faces around every corner. Marlborough High School has provided us with comfort, support, pride, and a sense of community. But now, we have to step out of our comfort zone and explore the world on our own. We are going to be forced to make new friends, fend for ourselves, and not have someone there to hold our hand along the way. But I have no doubt that every single one of us will be successful in our own ways, because of how well we have been prepared by our teachers, guidance counselors, and even our friends. Being high school students, we have already made so many accomplishments.

Our class has achieved success in so many different areas. Marlborough High School class of 2019 has made accomplishments in athletics, art, music, academics, community service, and so many other areas. We have Halle McCabe and Lou Vigeant who have reached the all state level in their respective sports, as well as many other athletes who will continue their athletic careers in college. We also have Matt Pearl who won a gold medal at the Micca Solo Festival, we have Morgan Raun, Kimmie Huaman, Olivia Rainville, and Herzen Reise who went to Africa to volunteer

in hospitals, and we have many classmates who will be first generation college students. And that's just to list a few accomplishments. I think it is fair to say that we have a very talented class. The wide range of our class talent proves that you can achieve success in many different ways. It's not always about how smart you are or where you come from, it's about how hard you work in order to achieve your own version of success.

It's important to remember that not every achievement is going to be huge. It can be as simple as getting your first A in a class, volunteering your time in the special needs department, or just doing an act of kindness. Sometimes it is the small things that matter the most, even if they go unnoticed. And although our class has made significant accomplishments that have even made the news, I know that our class also has many unsung heroes.

Success comes in many forms and means different things to different people. Some of you will be going off to college, some will be serving our country, and some will be going right into the workforce. Even though we are all going in different directions, we will always be connected through our years here at Marlborough High School. And whatever your path may be, I am positive that you will reach success and reach your goals in your own way. And to quote Maya Angelou, "Whatever you want to do, if you want to be great at it, you have to love it and be able to make sacrifices for it".

I want to finish by reminding all of you to thank those people in your life who helped you to get where you are today. I personally want to thank my friends for always having my back, and my teachers for their knowledge and guidance. And lastly I want to thank my family and especially my mom and dad for pushing me and believing in me throughout this journey. Thank you!

Now I would like to invite our class president and valedictorian, Morgan Raun, to the podium.