

Good Afternoon Class of 2019, glad to see you're all here! Because we are a matter of minutes away from graduating and honestly probably not seeing most of each other for like, forever...

But don't worry! I wouldn't want to torture myself with long speeches, so I tried to make mine short and to the point...

To begin, there are many, many Thank Yous to be said to those who have brought each and every one of us to this point. We should thank our parents and family, administration and our teachers and also those 1 or 2 "Smart Friends" who always seemed to know what they were doing.

Also, a big Thank You should go to those not normally recognized, but whose influence is all around us. Coaches for sports and clubs, Tutors, Teaching Support Staff, Cafeteria workers, Custodians and Anyone else who has helped us along the way in part, Big or Small.

Because those influences do have an impact on us and the world itself in profound ways. With that in mind, I thought that "Waiting on the World to Change." By John Mayer held an important message everyone could learn from. In his song Mr. Mayer, (Not to be confused with our very own Jimmy Mayer), goes over his feelings about the young generation standing idly by, watching the world and waiting for someone to change it.

Mayer says in one of his first lines, "Now we see everything that's going wrong with the world and those who lead it." Then in the chorus he sings, "So we keep waiting, waiting on the world to change." John Mayer observed the generation in 2006- when the song was written- as a generation who didn't act but stood by as they watched the world and didn't try to change it for the better.

The Graduating Class of 2019 *will not make that mistake*.... Because of all that we have accomplished in the last 12 years of school and life. All the countless hours we have spent volunteering in our community, Our Exceptional school spirit seen throughout the school, the collaboration of students working with the life skills classroom. personal and school records set in our athletics, the achievements of our academic clubs and organizations, as well as our Vo-Tech's expertise in all trades that they study, hosting and volunteering at blood drives annually, *and* not to mention our schools high academic achievement being one of the highest in the state. We know that all these accomplishments can make a change for the better and impact the world around us

I believe that in our own generation, we need to be the generation of Do'ers *NOT* Watchers. That instead of waiting for those older than us to make a change, rather we do it ourselves.

Don't just watch that sport you love so much on TV, go out and Do It.

Help that person having a bad day, don't watch them walk by you... and pick up their books if they drop them.

Do that new thing you want to do, and don't let the negative people keep you on the sidelines.

Don't wish and wait for something you want, go out and **work your ass off** for it. Put in the hard work into things you enjoy.

Walk through life with a smile and say hi to everyone, don't let the world drift by like a boring movie.

So go out into this world, Do what you enjoy, because life is about being a Do'er not a Watcher. No matter who you are, you have the power to make a difference.

So Finally, as my time up here (hopefully short) comes to a close, and we go our separate ways... I ask you this,

Instead of “Waiting on the World to Change”, Why don’t we just change It ourselves?

..... Congratulations Graduates.