

I would just like to say before I start my speech that—thanks to Mrs. Schultz—I automatically typed my speech in Times New Roman, 12, double spaced.

Greetings class of 2016, family, friends, teachers, and staff. Thank you all for coming out and supporting us. For helping us through tough projects (for example the *Oh the Places You'll Go* project), through last minute homework assignments (Dominic I'm looking at you), and pushing us to always do our best.

I would like to say to my fellow graduates: we did it. We actually made it through our years at Immanuel! I never thought this day would come. Some of us wanted it to come as fast as it possibly could. Others never wanted to be here, to stay 8th graders forever. I hate to say it but, we can't stay. To be honest if we did stay for another 5 years we would get 100% on every test and everyone would be valedictorian. But we can't. Times are changing.

There are many different high schools we're going to: South, Central, Prairie Ridge, Faith, McHenry West, Cary Grove, Huntley, Marion, Woodstock North, and Wauconda (Let's go Dogs). I know we'll all have a great time. Though we won't have Dominic popping soccer balls are kicking shoes on the roof, Nick and Mike stinking up the teachers' lounge with burnt popcorn, Mason's constant "J-Money", or all the "What if" questions from Cherolyn, we will all still have an amazing time in high school; wherever you're going.

Many people came and went, and many people came here that are sitting in front of me today. The people that left by choice made a mistake. Because they could choose their school, or one the best classes in the world. And that's the truth. I know we'll all miss each other, some more than others, but I think we all can agree: everyone here has had an impact on our lives.

I would like to say a quote from Walt Disney: "Keep moving forward." No matter what happens just keep moving forward. I would also like to recite our class verse again, which is Deuteronomy 31:8. "The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged." What it's saying is God will never leave you! I want you all to remember that. And if you don't I'll remind you.

These years here at Immanuel have been a rollercoaster ride. There have been ups and downs. There was sadness but WAY too many laughs. But we made it through. I would like to leave with you this: Until we meet again, have the time of your lives.