

Good evening graduates, family members, faculty and friends. It is an honor to be part of the Commencement Ceremony here at Shawsheen Tech. Thank you all for attending.

First off I'd like to thank the faculty at Shawsheen for all the hard work and dedication that you've put into each and every one of your students. You've helped us grow and learn lifelong skills that have prepared us for the outside world. As for the parents, you're probably wondering where the past 18 years or maybe more have gone. You all remember the days of changing diapers and potty training. You can even remember sending us off to the first day of school and then teaching us how to drive, and here you are now. Who would've thought this day would approach so fast? You've helped us through our toughest times and have been our number one supporters throughout our lives. You've held our hands since before we can remember. You've encouraged, guided and mentored us and now we are setting off on our own paths.

We've learned a lot at Shawsheen. One thing I took out of biology, for example, is that we're going to have to learn to adapt, otherwise we won't survive. Classmates, we've had to adapt since our very first day here at Shawsheen. We endured sitting in a hot gymnasium, squished together with complete strangers on the bleachers like sardines. Remember when Shawn Maguire was called out to get in front of the class and he had to phone his mother to tell her that he loves her? I was thinking to myself, *thank god that isn't me*, because we were all mostly strangers. A couple days later on September 9th, we were the very first class to go on the Annual Freshman Cruise! We were already starting to adapt, and we had fun getting to meet new people!

I remember our sophomore year, how stressful it was preparing for MCAS. We adjusted to the stress that was thrown at us and we survived. I believe we didn't go a day without hearing the word MCAS. The day of the test we could only remember how Dr. Kanellas emphasized how the SOPH-O-MORES must score higher than the previous years, and I'm sure we made him very proud when he found out the results. We scored 98% on English, 87% in Math and an 89% in Biology with Shawsheen Tech being one of the top schools in the State of Massachusetts.

Our junior year we were finally upperclassmen! We became leaders and guided the freshman teaching them as we had been taught only two years earlier. During the year we also had our first annual Mr. and Ms. Shawsheen Competition and our very own Jordan Walsh took home the crown. The highlight of the competition definitely was when Jordan Walsh and Jayci Mooney danced to "It's Tricky"! But how can we forget Emily Dufield's Fresh Prince of Bell Air rap this year! Another thing that happened that year was when Kurtis O'Byrne brought his dog to school! You heard me: his dog! I know reality hit most of us towards the end of the year: we had one year of high school left and we couldn't believe that it was almost over.

Finally our senior year came in a blink of the eye. I know everyone told us how fast high school would fly by and boy it did! We certainly didn't believe them, but everyone was right. It feels like we just started high school. We've made so many memories: some of us drove lawnmowers to school. We had a "drive in" on the softball field. Santina Piccolo and the cheerleading team had to save the day and put blankets on the fence so we could watch the movie! Our Senior Prom finally came around and everyone was excited! During the night we had Emily Dufield win best dancer, and Alyssa Papserdo and myself winning prom queen and king. These things will never stay the same. These great friends, the school routine, and the way

of life we have at home will be the first things to change. Our time at school has given you many skills. We know how to work hard, dedicate ourselves, and persevere through life's largest battles no matter what happens. We have already changed so much as we have grown up at school. In the future we will face change all the time. Without change life would be a bit dull, new experiences make life fun and exhilarating. No one is an overnight success; we get there by steadily improving what we learn and applying that knowledge in all aspects of our lives.

I know that leaving Cassidy Field tonight, we're leaving as different people than the freshman we were just four short years ago. Remember to stay true to who you are as a person. As we come to the end of our journey through high school, I want to wish each and every one of you success in whatever endeavors you choose to pursue. Even though I'm sad to say to goodbye, we had a good run class of 2015. I couldn't be prouder to be your class president. I know that we will be doing magnificent things with our lives, and I couldn't be more thrilled. Remember that just because this chapter of the book is closing it isn't the end; it's just the beginning. Thank you all for coming, and congratulations class of 2015, we made it!