

Good evening staff, families, friends, and class of 2015! My name is Josh and I have the privilege of giving our commencement speech.

We've come a long way since we started here four years ago. A lot of change has happened. In my own experience I have grown a lot, probably about 10 inches.. Seriously though, this class has gone from nervous little fresh-meat in the puppy pound to confident, invincible seniors where nothing gets in our way! Am I right?

As we went through high school we learned some important lessons. If you didn't, well you're probably sitting in the audience instead of these comfy chairs out here. The most important lesson I can think of is that you will never be successful in anything you do unless you work hard and put in the time. I regret the fact that I applied this lesson to my education only this year. I was an average student my first three years of high school. But this year I worked hard and put forth my best effort in everything I did, and I ended up getting only two B's out of all my classes, and also taking on the challenge of a dual enrolment medical terminology class at Davenport University.

So here is the reason this whole high school graduation thing is important. Since you were around 5 years old you've been coming to school and doing what people tell you to do. You've been doing homework, quizzes, tests, and the ACT... Why? Why did you have to do all these dreaded things? You did it for preparation. You've been being prepared for this exact moment. Well, how does it feel? Most of you made it!

Now that you're here at the start of it all, what will you do with the knowledge and skills you've been given? What will you do to set yourself apart from the sea of people you're sitting with right now, besides changing your clothes. It's funny, they start your new individual life off by making us all wear the exact same thing! Anyway, you all have the ability to be successful in whatever you want to do, but you have to work hard and be smart, All those years of preparation are on you now.

No more people to tell you what to do, (what to wear.....) where to go, or to tell you what to do next. It's going to be awesome right? Think about it. Really try to imagine yourself five to ten years from now. Graduating college, starting a family? I bet every one of you will look back and wish you could go back to highschool because it was so simple. But that's ok, because it is going to be hard.

Nothing about the life ahead of you is going to be easy. Life is working hard to find your way and to find yourself. There are many many challenges ahead of you right now, but you're ready for them. Take a leap of faith and soar through the sky, you're an East Kentwood Falcon!