

## Salutatorian speech

Mr. McKee, Mr. Howie, Mrs Hanks, Ms Hunt, esteemed faculty, administrators, parents, family, and friends I am here today to give the first salutatorian speech in Viewpoint history with a mask on. I couldn't be happier to be part of this monumental day...so on that note I am here to welcome you all to Viewpoint's AMAZING class of 2020.

The Class of 2020 has gone through so many obstacles that we all overcame but did not deserve. Who would have thought our senior year would end up encountering fires with many losing their homes, and a global pandemic with stay at home orders and online classes for our whole fourth quarter. Even though this is not what we expected the end of our high school years to look

like, these combined experiences have made us, Viewpoint, strong.

Through this and other challenges, Viewpoint has allowed us to develop this quality of strength that embodies who we are as a class as a whole. We all fought and fought and fought through the adversity brought upon us and continued to push ourselves to attend school and be successful in what we do. Our class is full of unique and extremely successful people, who continue to work extremely hard and push themselves to get where we are today.

Experiencing this global pandemic during our second semester, which restricted

us from attending school and seeing our classmates made us realize how much we all miss each other. Seeing everyone today

in their caps and gowns ready to take off and begin a new journey of life, I now realize how many traditional senior year experiences we missed during the past few months. But as I look back, I see all the amazing and fun times we had as a class, and I would never give those up. One prime example was the retreat this year. It was 10:50 at night and I was finishing up writing notes to friends in the lounge, and began walking down to the cabins for curfew at 11...when all of a sudden I heard music blasting and Max Angard's loud voice yelling across the retreat. I began to run down the hill to see what was going on, and all I saw was a group of 50 kids singing, dancing, and Roy Numa moshing in a circle. Curfew was in 5 minutes but no one cared, we were just vibing as a class with no worries. We all remember Brach and Margaux in the middle of the circle for an epic dance battle. I've never seen someone as smooth as Brach was then, when he hit that dance floor and was in the middle of everyone

dancing... that was up until I saw Margaux begin to lay down in the snow and all of a sudden hit the craziest worm i've ever witnessed. I remember that moment and how I couldn't stop smiling. I was so happy that I thought I was living in a dream. No one was embarrassed to dance and be themselves, everyone had a smile on their faces and was just happy to be with each other. After that night, we met up at the same time every remaining night there and had a huge dance party outside of the cabins with everyone in the grade. I don't think I have ever heard stories of a class of students coming so close to each other in just one night...and that night truly sparked the new beginning of our class, and we owe that to our senior retreat leaders for all the heavy lifting to make our retreat awesome: Ronnie, Tahj, Ilia, Lucia, Max, Dani, Sela, Zain, Lauren and Deja.

Although that night sparked our unity as the class of 2020, we have tons of other great memories that made our 4 years at Viewpoint memorable. Throwing it back to Junior year when Ahoora made it to the finals of the high school ping pong tournament, and we all went crazy and were storming the court for him after each win, screaming “Juniors, Juniors, Juniors” at the class of 2019. This showed our energy and love for each other and our spirit of being the graduating class of 2020.

Besides making fun of the seniors each year at the rallies, don't forget about when we switched it up with when we left the assembly early together because we lost to the freshman and we didn't get to play another game of dodgeball. Senior year truly marked the amazing memories for our class, and it all started with the Beginning of the year Senior Bonfire we set up. We all gathered together and watched the sunset while enjoying smores, with the fire that our one and only Eagle Scout, Trevor

Hysten, had made for us. Oh and by the way it wasn't like it was easy to get to, Jordan Moore had us travel a hour away to Ventura County to go to a beach..but surprisingly almost all still showed up. We were not just classmates but we stood together with each other. From eating senior lunches in the quad together, meeting new people in our grade, that I haven't talked to before, to seeing everyone at gatherings after dances and Brach's sweet dance moves, to just saying hi to people I don't get to talk to much, I believe this lead to us becoming a family.

I could honestly go on and on about specific memories that we experienced together, but I'm sure you want to continue with the ceremony. We all couldn't be who we are today without ourselves and our friends at Viewpoint, however we do owe it to Viewpoint School for making us who we are. Without the amazing administrators, teachers, coaches, faculty, and everyone

who plays a role at Viewpoint, we would not be so prepared to take on the next step of our lives. By trusting Viewpoint, it was the best decision of my life. When I got accepted to Viewpoint School, I only knew the football coach, but it took me only a few weeks and our trip to CAmp Surf freshman year to realize I would be spending the next 4 years with an amazing group of people. I am beyond happy that my parents saw the potential for a valuable experience and great education. Viewpoint changed me and everyone here to become the best possible person you can be. They have not only prepared us for college, but they mature you and help you begin your lives now as Men and Women.

We will never forget our time at viewpoint and we will miss each other dearly. You know I will definitely miss dapping Everyone up every time I see you guys too, but just remember

we are Viewpoint strong and we all have each other's backs for life. I will miss every single person sitting in these chairs in a specific way either personal or literally just seeing them in the halls, and I know every single person here will go off and do big things in the next chapter of their lives. Whenever you need support, know that the Viewpoint family is here to help you and so am I. I want to thank the Viewpoint faculty and administrators for allowing us to be ourselves. I also want to thank the student body for choosing me to stand up here and represent our class on this special day.

Lastly, I wanted to say our lives have been filled with historical obstacles from being born in the year of 9/11 to graduating in the year of a global pandemic. Who knows what historical obstacles the future will hold but we now know that with anything that occurs, I know this group of students celebrating



today, will be strong and fight through it and live amazing and successful lives.

HUGE Congratulations to the class of 2020 at Viewpoint high school. Love you guys!

Thank you all!