Emmie Barron
Salutatorian Speech

"One day you're 17 and planning for someday. And then quietly and without you ever really noticing, someday is today. And then someday is yesterday. And this is your life." I start off with this quote because it's now really hitting me that I'm no longer a little girl. It seems like yesterday that I was being filmed for our kindergarten graduation video, saying that I wanted to be a cheerleader when I grew up; obviously things have changed a little. I never would have thought that I would be in this position or that I would be attending the University of Michigan. Even at the beginning of senior year, college seemed like a far-off dream; now it's rapidly approaching, and I don't know how I can be expected to live on my own when it feels like I'm still 12.

All this aside, I do strongly believe that each graduating senior has the ability to do something great. This will sound dumb coming from me, but I hate the idea some people have that getting good grades makes someone smart and vice versa. Grades are in no way an accurate measure of someone's intelligence; for instance, I get good grades and half the time I am an idiot. Grades do not define you.

My fellow seniors, we have struggled through elementary, middle, and high school together. We have gone through our Crocs phase, our awkward middle school phase, and now we are wrapping up our equally awkward high school phase. Though I know I've only ever actually spoken to approximately 5 you, I will, for the most part, remember each of your smiling faces as we shoved one another out of the way in the hallway and ignored each other's existence. I wish you the best, yet I understand that we will all be put through life's paces, and what we learn from these trials will define who we ultimately become. I hope you all become the person you've always dreamed of being, and if you struggle, remember that it's okay to ask for help--it took me a while to realize that. And now, I will leave you with one of my favorite SpongeBob quotes: "Goodbye everyone, I'll remember you all in therapy."