

Graduation Speech  
Caroline Murphy  
Senior Class President

Hello and good morning parents, relatives, teachers, friends, and the reason why you all are here sitting in the hot sun for the next two hours...the Class 2015. My name is Caroline Murphy, your senior class president. It is an honor for me to be speaking in front of you today. When I was preparing to write this speech, to be honest, I put it off. Not because I am afraid of crying in front of a thousand of you, which will probably happen, or that John Cahill will never let me live it down if I do, or when I had asked Alex Denmark and Katherine Dunham last Wednesday if they had started their speeches yet and they both responded with "ahhh no". I put it off because I truly cannot believe the day we have been waiting for is finally here. The day we all worked so hard for, the day we finally have to say goodbye to four years spent at Sandwich High School

The Sandwich Public Schools are unique because from kindergarten to twelfth grade we have grown up with the same people in the same town. Granted we all were divided into three separate middle schools, but fortunately we were able to mingle at dances, and participate in rec soccer on the weekends. We hold Sandwich close to our hearts because we have grown up together. Encouraged one another that jumping off the boardwalk isn't scary, embraced our awkward stages together, and got through our first slow dance in middle school. Shout out to Zach Garassi.

I remember my first day of high school very vividly. My Dad dropped me off at the front of the school, and tried taking a picture of me. I probably said something along the lines of "Dad! Stop, it's just high school!" I wore shoes that I made sure were not slippery so I didn't fall. I tend to do that a lot...I fell down the stairs the next day. Walking into homeroom and

sitting next to my two good friends Mike Fulton and Brain Cundiff made me feel at ease because they were two familiar faces, but inside I was so nervous to leave that room and start my day. After a week, I felt comfortable at Sandwich High School.

Through our four years, we made new friends, joined clubs, became apart of a team. Teachers and Staff members left us, but luckily new teachers such as the great Mr. McDonald joined us freshman year and has grown alongside us. A total of nine brave souls, including myself, participated in the dreaded Freshman Homecoming Skit. Correction, nine brave souls participated in the Freshman Homecoming Skit starring Sabrina Nelson as Peter Pan/Buddy the Elf? Today; we present ourselves in front of you as graduating seniors. We have finally made it to this part in our high school career, which in just a few moments will end.

Our class has undergone many firsts and changes; Sandwich Soul started their first year, we were the first class to be issued iPads, to have all female officers, the first class to change the colors of our graduation robes, and to graduate in the new DeConto Stadium.

As a class I think we can agree that we weren't the most involved our first couple years, but with age and time that started to change. When the girls hockey team made it to the playoffs last year, we were all there with our blue and white wanting them to success. #BKP. And this year when the boys basketball team, with all their success, had the gym jam packed, a large majority of fans were seniors decked out in each night's theme. When everyone was hearing back from schools, and making future plans, there was an abundance of support. Katherine once said "We are a healthy amount of obsessed with one another". I think that describes our class perfectly. In the Senior Lounge we have a whiteboard that we decided to convert into a "Where We Are Going" board that encouraged students to celebrate their accomplishments by writing their future plans up on the board so that everyone could see. The board is completely full with everyone's most proud achievements. Next year 29

students will be attending a 2 year college. 149 students will be attending a 4 year college. 3 students are going to College Preparatory Schools. 10 students are pursuing employment. 10 students have not committed to post secondary plans. And with honor and pride 10 students have committed to the military. As a community we are so proud of our graduating class.

I'd like to thank my parents for being my number one supporters. I am forever grateful for everything you have done for me, especially the past four years. You've pushed me to reach my full potential and have been there to listen to my every word. I'm sorry for being a typical moody teens at times, but you had to have seen that coming right? I'd also like to thank my second family; Lisa, Shaun, John, and Maria Cahill. Thank you for always caring for me as one of your own, I'm forever grateful.

Thank you to my fellow class officers, the girls who made it exciting to come to school at 7:30 am for meetings every single Thursday, The Fab 5 - Katherine Dunham ,Tara McElhinney, Kylie Condosta, and Lily Barter. I am so honored to have been able to join your team this year. Thank you for being there for every ridiculous idea, and helping "decorate" for every school event aka turning the lights off and plugging in an iPod....I know it was a tedious task. This usually is the time I would say "it's been great, team" but hey guess what? The Fab 5 will be back again in about 10 years planning a class reunion....maybe in our tuxedos.

Throughout the years it seems like our class advisors changed as much as the Defense Against the Dark Arts Teachers did in the Harry Potter series. But thankfully two dedicated women decided to stick around. Mrs. Meara and Mrs. Fougere, I am especially grateful for the time and dedication you two put into giving our class a year to remember. Thank you for supporting our ideas, and making those ideas possible. Mrs Meara, I'm sorry I wasted so much of your poster paper because I could never spell anything correctly. I'm not

exaggerating, this happened every single time we made posters. Lastly, thank you for all the time you two put into making this week's senior week unforgettable.

I would like to thank every teacher and staff member for being our mentors and shaping us into the young individuals we are today. There are no words to adequately express all that you do each and every day. And of course thank you to Dr. Booras, Dr. Canfield, Mr. Hill, Mrs. Wagner, Mrs. Melanson, and Mrs. Carlyle for everything you have done to support and guide our class to excellence, thank you for pushing us to achieve greatness.

I knew I would have to get to this part of the speech, after reminiscing about times and talking so highly about my class... the part where I try to say goodbye to you all. (Believe me I put it off as long as I could.) When thinking of how, bounced ideas back and forth in my head, sat at my computer and just stared at the screen, and finally an idea came to me. So what I decided on was that I am saying goodbye with a letter directly addressed to you all...

Dear Class of 2015, my peers, my friends,

We did it. Four years later and are graduating. I'd like to ask you to look at the two people sitting beside you, and congratulate one another. Because every single one of you deserves this moment right now. I'd like to thank everyone that elected me as your president for this year. Thank you for giving me your trust and confidence. I enjoyed every moment and learned so much. As a class, we've shared many good times....pep rallies, spirit week, lip dubs, Bournedale, Mrs. Grant's pep talks, that time we had a fire drill every single day for a week, and an unplanned snow vacation senior year. Some have said "high school is the best four years of your life" but I don't think that's true. The great Eddie Vedder once said "Let's say knowledge is a tree...It's growin' up just like me..." High School is but one tiny chapter in all of our lives, and we have so much ahead of us.

I highly recommend that you leave the Cape and explore the world whenever you get the chance to. I moved to California the summer of 2013. It was one of the hardest moments of my life but one of the most beneficial. I learned that in order to deal with change you must accept change. My time spent away made me more independent, and helped me become better prepared for the next chapter in my life. Most importantly, change did not defeat me.. Although my move only lasted a short amount of time I still look back and realize how significant those six months were to my personal growth at such an important time in my life. And here is what I have learned...Sandwich will always be here whenever you need to come home.

All of you are so individually unique and have so many different talents and potential to offer the world. To define us as one big happy family is a lie, but to say we don't care about one another and want one another to be successful in life is an even bigger lie. I promised myself I wouldn't have any cliches in this speech, but I will say this...life is like a roller coaster, one day you have southwest corn chowder and half baked chocolate chip cookies and the next say you don't, and some how you're supposed to make it to your next block without them. I hope each one of your lives offer you endless opportunities, and a lifetime of happiness and success. I hope you fail a few times, only to realize that failing is okay and will motivate you to work ten times harder. My mom has always told me "Don't worry about the outcome, live for today, everything will work itself out." If you're scared, don't feel alone. I'll tell you a little secret, there are 209 kids in the same boat. In just under three months our new chapter in the book of life will be begin, and I cant wait to see where it takes us. With all that said, the class of 2015, I wish you the best of luck, I hope you never forget never forget to have a Blue Knight Day.

