

SPEECH BY CLASS PRESIDENT: HUNTER LARSON 2020

Good evening parents, staff, and students. This seems like a dream that went by too fast. I've been with mostly the same group of kids for 9 years(Hunter, TJ, Conner Nathan, Alex, Owen, Kerry, Kyliegh, and Cadey), and it's been amazing. Don't worry I didn't forget about you Matt and Enzo. Starting in kindergarten through 2nd grade, we all got to know each other, school was a blast. Reading, naptime, and having fun was our only care. We made memories all through those first three years(or 4 for the people that went to Pre-k here), then we did more than all other years combined, but most of us students don't remember much. Our teachers did though, and I always wondered, were we as much of a pain in the butt then as we are now?

Next are grades 3, 4, and 5. This was definitely a change for us as school work became more of a priority in our lives. I think we did a pretty good job rising to the occasion, if I do say so myself. Third grade was also the year that Matt moved to our school and I'm glad he did. I can't imagine our class without him!

In fourth grade we had Mrs. McCombe. I was terrified. No offense Mrs. McCombe, but I thought you were going to be the scary teacher. Turns out it was the complete opposite.

In fifth grade, Mrs. Reynolds was trying to get us ready for middle school. I would say she did a pretty good job... Maybe. Our next three years was middle school, and boy it was a ride.

In sixth grade we had Mr. Kernan. This was the year we had to get used to a lot of things, including more moving from classroom to classroom for everything. This was also the year our class could start sports and I'll say we did a great job.

Seventh grade was tough. Mrs.Mead was a great homeroom and science teacher, but it was mainly a bad year with our behavior.

Going into eighth grade, I think our class changed for the better! I would even say eighth grade with Mrs.Lessard was the best year of middle school and even elementary.

Through all this we had our challenges - academically, socially, and emotionally. But, through these tough times we persevered and made the best of them. Our class has made a special bond through these ten years. Enzo and Tristan, even though they have only been here a few years, are just as much a part of who we are today as the rest of us! We've

matured immaculately through the grades and I'd like to talk about that. We've had our ups and downs as a class on this end. All of you teachers can agree, but I think we made up for it.

Moving on to sports, it was a small portion of three years but it was one of the big things that made our class special. I was never a part of girls sports until 8th grade basketball but they did an amazing job all 3 years. I was very glad to be a part of the girl's team and help coach this year. It was very rewarding for me and I hope you all learned as much as I did.

I never played soccer, but our team had what, 5 kids on it at one point this year and still won games. We even made it to the playoffs in 6th grade.

Track was a different experience for me; it was less of a sport and more of a bonding time with the middle school. Sure, we trained for each race, but it really brought us closer together.

Last, is basketball, the sport we made the most progress in and defied the odds. We were one game off of the playoffs in 7th grade...with five people on our varsity. If we fouled out, we'd have to bring the JV in. I'd like to thank Mr Ayer for the great seasons in 6th and 7th grade. But 8th is where we shined. And it all starts with Mr Bridgewater. I'm not going to lie, I hated you the first two weeks of the season. The first game was 3 weeks away and we didn't even touch a basketball because of all the conditioning . But, I think it changed us for the better. We ended up making it to the championship with 8 kids for the first time in a long time for Eastford.*

Starting off in Kindergarten I never would have thought of standing in front of everyone and giving this speech. I definitely didn't think it would be in this setting either. This isn't the end, just think of it as another chapter in life. In a couple months we will all be in high school. My biggest regret is not being able to throw water balloons at Mr Kernan during field day. Although I may sneak back in here one day. I'd like to thank everyone who has helped our class through this journey. Thank you all for the memories that will last a lifetime, and remember I will always have your back. Good luck in the following years, Class of 2020. Before I hand it over to Mr Bowen to say a few words I just want everyone to remember this. Wherever life takes you, may you always take big risks. Become the person you always wanted to become. Remember, Dream Big, Work Hard.

Thank you and here is Mr. Bowen, Chairman of the Board of Education.