

Salutatorian Speech 2009

Hello everyone, my name is Taylor DeLoach and I am the salutatorian for the Class of 2009. Little did I imagine that when I set foot on this campus as a 6th grader that I would be standing here before you today. We have come a long way since the days of Latin class and Ms. York's special brand of science. And who could forget our epic 8th grade year, with the Class of 2008's reputation for misbehavior hanging over our heads. That year brought us such legends as Mr. Bagnell, Mr. Bellows, Mr. Sargrad, and our own Mr. Kolade. These were the days of Mrs. Monahan and Mrs. Bagnell, with the shouts of Mrs. Wynkoop saying "GET OUT OF MY LOCKER ROOM!!!" chasing us out of Lower Leeland.

Then came high school, unfamiliar but exciting, with much more privileges than middle school. Ms. Farquhar and Ms. Howley were as nervous on their first days as we were. Somehow, we made it through. 10th grade brought Chemathon and Track Championships, and in case anyone hasn't heard yet, the Girls Varsity Track Team recaptured the Championship this past Tuesday. We have had our highs and our lows, our triumphs and heartbreaks, and yet here we all are, together, for one last time.

Those of you who know me well know that math is NOT my strongest subject, but I do know that the whole is the sum of its parts, and that is what Queen Anne has been for me. Without every single experience that I've had here, I wouldn't be the person I am today. Yes, Queen Anne has provided me with an excellent education here and I feel more than prepared to take on the next challenge, but it has given me so much more than that; it has given me a place to flourish, to grow and to blossom. It has

surrounded me with friends and classmates who have altered my life for the better. It has given me teachers and coaches who genuinely want the best for me and give 100% of themselves every single day to help all of us to get to where they know we can be.

We all take things for granted, and I know that I will not fully appreciate my experience here until I am gone. There are not words, however, to express how thankful I am for everything that has been done for me here. To the teachers especially, thank you so much for coming in every day and putting everything else aside for us. I know there is time and work put in on your part that I will never be able to comprehend, but know that I am eternally grateful for it. Know that I realize that I may get a little bit sassy sometimes, and I may be a tiny bit hard-headed, and I tend not to back down when I think I'm right. In your minds you may be saying "oh no, not Taylor, she's quiet and soft-spoken!" but I know it was hard to bear with me sometimes and I'm very glad you did. I will especially never forget how hard we worked for our 2 years of Chemistry and the many munchies we were provided with, getting sassy with Ms. Viv, singing in the passing time before Honors Literature, finishing papers at 4 am (which I will probably continue doing in college), having Ms. Bertwell as a coach, riding on the track bus, "exercising" in gym, Super Magical, Mama Duck, country accents, awkward butterfly, the Arizona wall, the video games (and pretty much everything that went on) in the lounge, the "senior prank", and how we had to follow in the wake of the infamous Class of 2008. We held our own, we persevered, and we've finally made it.

As we move forward into a new chapter of our lives, I will always remember where I came from and the people that I knew. I will head to Connecticut in the fall to attend Wesleyan University, and I can only hope

that Wesleyan allows me to become as...special...as Mr. Fox-Boyd turned out to be. I will miss so many things about this place, and it is a bittersweet feeling to know that I will never again walk down these sidewalks as a student of Queen Anne School.

To the rising seniors: good luck with the lounge. To the rising juniors: hang in there. To the rising sophomores: 3 years isn't as long as you think it is. To the rising freshman: welcome to the big leagues. To my classmates: I'm glad we could share this moment and be together for one last time, and thank goodness Kara could take a break from the barn to be here. To my family: don't Jordan and Paige run the show just because I'm not here to keep them in check (this applies to everyone, really). Jordan and Paige, you guys are my heart and I love you so much more than I can ever say, and I will make sure that our dream of become the female version of the Jonas Brothers still comes true. To my grandparents, aunts, uncles, and Tyron: thank you all for being so supportive of me in everything that I do. Morgan and Myles, I love you!! Mom and Dad, without you I never would have given Queen Anne a chance, so thank you most of all. You all have put up with my silly antics and I couldn't have ever asked for a better family than we have.

Thank you all for sharing this journey with me, and don't forget me, because I most certainly will not forget you.