

Kayla Robinson

Graduation Speech

Good Morning families, friends, parents, teachers, students, and last but not least the Class of 2009. This is it. A journey that began four years ago is ending today. Soon we will be getting the diplomas in our hands, and will become Queen Anne School alums. However this achievement is not ours alone. This achievement is also credited to our parents and teachers, without whom we would not be here today. They have been with us through good times and bad, encouraging us to achieve more than the status quo. It is because of their devotion and concern that we are here today, taking this very important step.

We have all learned lessons throughout our high school journey that will help us fair well in college. We can no longer depend on the constant guidance of our parents and teachers. It is our time now, it is time for us to use all the tools that high school has given us and succeed. This task may seem daunting, but I have no worries about this class. As class president, I have had time to really observe this class from different angles. If I had to describe this class in one word it would be opinionated. This class has no problem expressing

their views. I have always admired how precisely our class can argue their points, and refuse to back down unless the opposing argument is as strong as theirs. Because of this, our class will be natural leaders of whatever fields they choose to be in. But our successes will not come without challenges, but what defines us is how we handle those challenges.

For example, Charles de Gaulle, a famous French hero during the Second World War, was sentenced to death by a French court in absentia because of his determination to save the French state from German occupation, which went against the common consensus to sign an armistice with Germany. Charles de Gaulle's struggle to save the French state is the message that I would like to give the class today. Charles de Gaulle had few followers when he called for French resistance against the Germans, but his continued determination led to France avoiding occupation by Germany, and his eventual election as president. De Gaulle's journey to the presidency of France was not without challenges, as our journeys to success will be. But the important thing to remember is that no matter how bleak things may seem, if we maintain the determination that I know everyone in this class has, we will overcome whatever challenges

arise, and emerge as stronger men and women with more success than we could ever imagine.

Charles de Gaulle is famous for saying “La grandeur est un chemin menant vers l'inconnu,” which is translated, “greatness is a road leading to the unknown.” Today we celebrate our past achievements, but most importantly this is the moment when our own journey down the unknown road to greatness begins. We have everything we need to reach our destination, and though there will be bumps in the road, we will still reach the greatness at the end of it. The Class of 2009 is a force to be reckoned with. The world truly does not know the intelligent and determined students that are about to fully enter it. There have been many changes, in our society today, but the change that I know that this class will bring will be the most remarkable. As the members of this class receive their diplomas, I challenge them to celebrate the things that they have done, are doing today, but more importantly will be doing in the future. Thank you.