

Grad Speech

Thank you all for coming to support us in this very final stage of our High School Education. First I just want to point out all that has been done for us. To each and every one of you here, in the community, and elsewhere, we give you our most sincere thanks. Especially our families, since they have done the most of anyone. It is strange to think, that this is the last time that all 27 of us will be together until our class reunion in 20 years? Some of us have been together now for 2,340 days. That's enough time to circumnavigate the globe 1,701 times on the concorde, 38 times in a speedboat, or 1.5 times by foot. That seems like a lot of days. And it is. Those days changed us. In the time of those days, we made a dramatic transition. We started young, barely old enough to even imagine a future when we might be done with school. Now here we are, done with school.

For many of us, we started our journey in the Kindergarten room next to the front doors. With time, we moved down the hall, working our way one room at a time. Just when we were about to reach the back of the building, we skipped to a new one. We kept working our way around the new middle school, slowly inching closer to the high school. Eventually, the day came when we crossed the passage, and moved into yet another building. We spent 4 years in this building, working our way around the circle in a continually shifting routine. Now, today, we have finally reached the furthest point from room we started in. We have traversed the school. Our journey is complete. This journey may seem routine for us, the class above us did it, the class below us will do it, however it is anything but routine.

Right now, there are 27 of us here, at the end of our journey. Out of the 7.5 billion people on earth, there is a 4.4% chance of being a United States citizen. Out of that, a 1.1% chance of graduating high school this year, and out of the 3.6 million graduating high school seniors in the US, there is a .00075% chance of graduating here in Ennis. To bring it together, there is a .00000036% (with 6 zeros) chance of being part of Ennis's class of 2019. That's 37% less likely than winning the powerball.

I know many people have told you all that you can change the world. If you're anything like me, you just shrugged it off and said that will never happen. That was a reasonable assumption, based on the idea that very few people change the world in a dramatic way. However, even fewer people win the powerball, and even less graduate as part of Ennis's class of 2019. If you feel like the odds are against you, just remember, they always were.

Just because we come from a town that is little known outside of fly fishing circles, Yellowstone trip planners and the stories of wide eyed tourists, doesn't mean that we can't be the ones who change the world. The odds of changing the world are small, but not near as small as being here. With what we have gained from our 2,340 day journey down Charles Street, we can go out now, and make the world a bit more like Ennis.

