

Hello everyone. My name is Ellie Clausen and I am honored to be standing here in front of you all as the class of 2025's Salutatorian.

When I sat down to write this I was at a loss for words. There were so many directions I could go, and so many things to say with such a diverse class. Each person here has different life experiences, talents, and aspirations setting us apart from one another.

Trying to figure out what I could say that would reach everyone was quite challenging. But I am grateful to be graduating as a member of this great class!

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High school is not just about the textbooks. It's about discovering yourself with those around you.

The potential each and every one of us has is incredible. However, choosing the path right for oneself is not a simple task. Everyone around you always has an opinion on what is right and what is wrong.

What you should and should not do with your life. It can make times quite stressful when you are trying to do what is best for yourself while trying to please those around you. With all the voices it can be hard to figure out what you want to do, not what others want you to do.

Being able to understand and express one's true self plays a crucial role in maturing and evolving as an individual. It is easy to let ourselves fall into the safety net of others' expectations.

However, trying to find acceptance for our own interests, desires, skills, and faults is necessary in order to achieve self-fulfillment. This self-acceptance is what I encourage you all to pursue. It may not be the easiest path, but in the end it will be worth it.

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As this chapter of our life closes, a new chapter opens, full of new opportunities. Whether you are choosing to continue your education at a community college, University, trades program, or you are going right into the work field, I hope this new chapter in your life brings you some of your best opportunities and success.

Today marks the end of an era, an era filled with laughter, learning, heartache, growth, friendships, and endless memories. But it also marks the start of a new beginning, new places, new people, no longer having the comfort and security we have within these walls, but gaining independence and starting the rest of our lives.

Our futures will pull us in so many different ways but we will all have memories from this school to take with us and I am excited to see how this class continues to succeed out of high school.

We cannot forget that success does not come without failure. Failure is commonly thought of as the best teacher. It forces us to evaluate our strategies, work hard, and find a new solution. It is important to realize that failure is helping us learn, to make our achievements more rewarding.

Failure is our life being redirected to the path we are meant to be on. Reaching your life goals takes lots of determination as there will be countless obstacles to face, you have to learn how to overcome them so you can continue striving.

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I would like to take a moment to thank all the family and friends that are here supporting us all today. Your support is unmatched, we would not have made it this far without you and we will be forever grateful for all of you.

Thank you to all the staff members who make everyday better and show up for us no matter the circumstances.

Thank you to the lunch ladies and custodians for making our school experience possible. The hard work you all put in does not go unnoticed.

Thank you to all of my family and friends here today who have always cheered me on and supported me every step of the way.

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As we stand here today, on the edge of a new beginning, I'm filled with excitement for all that lies ahead.

My hope for all of us is that we embrace the unknown with courage, that we never stop learning and growing, and that we use the lessons we have learned to make a positive impact on the world. Let's go out and create the lives we have always dreamed of.

As we leave here today, let's carry the things we learned at BCHS with us. Never forget to be kind, brave, and hard working. Never forget the bonds that have helped transform us into who we have become.

Thank you all, and congratulations class of 2025.