

Friends,

After all these notebook checks, surprise calculus quizzes, and conversations involving Mrs. Micinski's gravestone inscribed with the Universal Law of Gravitation, we are actually approaching the end. It has been a rollercoaster of ups and downs (and a water slide during the Great Flood of 2018), but, nevertheless, we made it to the end. I think we can all agree that senior year has moved faster than we ever thought it would, but there have been more amazing things to remember in this past year than we could have hoped. We couldn't have had a more perfect year to conclude our academic journey, in my opinion. State championship boys cross country, state runner-up girls cross country, state championship volleyball, area-qualifying marching band, semifinalists in football, state-qualifying swim, semifinalists in boys basketball, state-qualifying powerlifting, state-qualifying cheer, nationals-qualifying Eagle Dolls, and playoff bound boys and girls soccer teams, in addition to many more successes to come in the last two months of our senior year. I am so proud to be a part of this school, and especially this senior class of 2019.

If I could tell my younger self anything, it would be to not be afraid to try new things. Too often, I would get caught up in the possibility of failure or the possibility of not being good enough, and I would never venture out of my comfort zone. The thought of failing was so demeaning that I would not even try. Well, here's the truth: you will fail. You will fail at a lot of things. Failure is inevitable in our lives. But, I have begun to see the importance of putting all you have into what you do, for the feeling of having committed wholeheartedly to something is rewarding, whether the outcome is what you wished for or not. Winston Churchill said that "Success is stumbling from failure to failure with no loss of enthusiasm." Even when we fail, we can continue on with enthusiasm in what we do and learn from our defeat. Besides, what you invest yourself in might turn out to be one of your new favorite things, and it may even change your life. Either way, you come out farther along than you were beforehand. So try a new sport, try out for a solo, try the sketchy food, and step out of your comfort zone. Even if it doesn't end well, you'll never regret trying, and that's all we can do. Hard work always pays off, in one way or another.

Thank you for a great four years. I wish you the best of luck in all that you do.

Christina Warr

VALEDICTORIAN

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Pages by Taryn Holmes



Seniors of DHS,

It's almost over. Keep pushing; keep fighting. Curb the senioritis as much as possible (laughable). Although we'll soon be onto the next part of our lives, the small community in which we grew up will remain in our thoughts forever. The strong bonds, the late summer evenings with friends, and the blaring country music at Circle-S will always be remembered.

The town square, Walmart at 2 in the morning, and the 7 places to get pizza (but no Chick-Fil-A) will always stay in the back of our minds.

Decatur High School has created many memories too. From the marching, football, and soccer field, swimming pool, infield and outfield, tennis court, to the auditorium, there is always a place to compete. Competition makes us better; it gives us a drive to do better. It is our job to apply this competition to make ourselves excel after school.

In the classroom, there are always funny moments as pick-me-ups to the drudgery of the day. These funny moments will be discussed for years to come. Take a moment after reading this to remind your friends of the funniest memory you can remember.

Odd things have happened throughout our school careers. Remember the week long snowstorm, or the more recent great flood of DHS? There have been dumb things, such as when people choked each other for fun in elementary school and stabbed each other with pins in art class. Great feats have been attained. The major athletic and academic accomplishments of our senior year have made this one of the greatest years at DHS.

As a general statement of advice to all students, I would say to take every opportunity the world has to offer you. Without students expressing themselves and taking chances, none of these funny or impressive events could have happened. One thing I have learned in high school is that if one doesn't participate, he or she will miss out. Some of the best times with friends occur after a hard day of work or a saddening loss. Don't ever stop participating because something is strenuous or challenging. You will lose memories by doing so.

On the topic of friends, teams, classmates, driving buddies, and midnight crazy people (you know the ones), never let them stray too far. There are times in which your friends or teammates may give up on you, but you stick with them until they outgrow their "stupid." After all, sitting with friends by the fire on a cool, autumn night will always be remembered more than a ten pound brick of a calculus textbook. You may forget everything you have learned, but you must never forget the people that have impacted your life or where your home is.

If one should manage to take away one principle from this letter, he or she should take away this: the keys to a fulfilling lifestyle and redolent memories are active participation and a strong dedication to friendship. If life gets to be too much, which it inevitably will from time to time, one may want to say "crud and sadness" and give up, but moving forward is the only way to go.

Best of luck,

Nicholas Bishop

SALUTATORIAN

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