*District Digest





A Special Issue Dedicated to the Class of 2000

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The Madeira High School Class of 2000

Bradford Wykoff

A Baccalaureate Message by Bob Larbes

"There was a child went forth
And the first object he look'd upon,
that object he became
And that object became part of him for the day,
or a certain part of the day
Or for many years or stretching cycles of years

Most of you borrowed those words from Walt Whitman last year to begin your own versions of "There Was a Child Went Forth" and that is exactly why we are here this evening - to celebrate your going forth.

When Ryan asked me if I would speak this evening I was taken by surprise. At first I felt honored and excited, but very quickly those emotions were replaced by a-sinking feeling that most of you have probably felt walking into public speaking class. I was filled with **trepidation** that my remarks would be incoherent, meandering and superficial and marked by a dearth of **profound** and **sagacious** thoughts. While I wanted to be exemplary, eloquent and astute, I was cognizant of the fact that no matter how diligent, candid and judicious I tried to be, there was a good chance that I would be somber, bizarre and verbose. At times I vacillated in my resolve to speak as the quandary became more **formidable** and I discovered a **plethora** of reasons to be **skeptical** that this experience would prove to be a **zenith** in my teaching career. Finally, I put my ambivalence aside and decided to speak. (The bold words are from the 9th grade vocabulary list.)

While trying to decide what message to share, I hearkened back to my own graduation in 1967. I hoped that in the memories that have survived 33 years I would unearth some clue as to what to say. I discovered that I have 5 very clear memories - it was very hot, my grandmother said that I looked

really grown up, my mother cried, my father told me that just because I was now a high school graduate that did not mean that I could stay out past my curfew, and my girl friend who was later to become my wife looked absolutely beautiful in the cutest, little white dress I had ever seen. While it was fun to recall these things they did not provide me with what I was searching for.

As I often do when faced with a problem, I turned to literature for an answer. In Emerson's essay "Nature" he wrote that "the foundation of man is not in matter but in spirit." One of the things that teachers figure out very early in their careers is that classes of students are very different. It's not that they are good or bad. It's that each has its own spirit. This class, your class, has a spirit that has filled this school for the last six years and whose legacy will remain after you are gone.

When you arrived here this was already an excellent high school, but now as you are about to leave it is an even better place. It is a better place because you have made it so. Your spirit in these halls and classrooms, on the courts and fields of competition, and on this stage have made this school a great place to be.

Occasionally there are the special moments with signs and posters lining Loannes celebrating some special accomplishment, or the tree in the circle is decorated to encourage the football team, or a banner recognizing a great Amazon season hangs on the outside of this building. Those are special times and worthy of note, but the kinds of things the Class of 2000 causes me to remember (cherish) are much simpler and yet they capture the spirit of this class.

The generosity shown by this class to Whitaker Elementary, the persistence of Alex Berenson telling me every day for three years to invest in technology, the tenacity of Julie Miller seeing that the Echoes actually did get published, the boldness of Jon Pomeroy, the youthful enthusiasm of Kevin & Blake riding to school on a bicycle built for two, the school spirit shown by Sally & Allie on Blue & Gold Days, the resilience of Justin Edgell in 7th grade and the loyalty of his friend Steve, the thoughtfulness of Jon Garman, the resourcefulness shown by Chad Nichols when he organized the visit to 0.U. on the Tour of Ohio, the determination of Cooper Rutledge when he would not quit wrestling, the whimsy of Common Time Clubhouse, the community service given by Jenny Greenert, the friendship shown by circles of students gathered outside the guidance office planning their day, preparing for class, passing on information, and the closeness seen in the senior wills that took 120,000 words to say good-by. The spirit of this class has manifest itself in many ways.

Last Thursday, John Selickman was in newspaper class reading the final edition of the Echoes when he looked up and said, "Ya know, it's gonna be weird around here without the seniors! What'll we do?" This morning Robin Behlow was in my room studying. I asked her about next year's color guard she said, "I think we'll be pretty good, but we'll miss Hilary's smile - that's what got us through the hard times." It's your spirit that they miss already and they know how difficult it will be to replace.

When Henry David Thoreau left Walden Pond after being there for 2 years, 2 months and 2 days he wrote that "I left the woods for as good a reason as I had gone there. Perhaps it seemed that I had other lives to live and could not spare any more time for that one." He knew that he had done all that he could in that 10' X 15' cabin and it was time to move on. He had other lives to live. One of the wonderful things about to take place in your lives is that you are at a moment when you will be forced to reinvent yourselves. Some of you will see this moment as a long awaited opportunity while others will enter into it with reluctance. I would encourage you to seize the opportunity and embrace it with all your energy and resourcefulness.

Once you leave the courtyard Saturday night and have attended your last graduation celebration, it will amaze you how quickly what happened here will become the past with little connection to the present. What has happened here is significant because it has helped you become the person you are, but once you move on, be it to the Army or Navy, a job, or college you have begun to create the future.

Most of you will walk into a college classroom where you will begin anew. The professor will not care if you were on the honor roll here or if you just managed to pass. It won't matter what awards you earned while you were here, but whether you have the determination to walk through the pouring rain to an 8 o'clock class. It won't matter what street you live on or what kind of car you drive, but whether you can clearly state your ideas in a class discussion or essay. It won't matter how popular you were here, but can you make new friends and will you survive the homesickness that inevitably strikes a freshman? Leaving here will present you with a parade of emotions and one unique opportunity - the opportunity to reinvent yourself. It is unavoidable, the reality of you as a student in Madeira Junior Senior High School is rapidly fading away.

Two weeks ago I received a letter from the mother of a former student who had come as close to not graduating from this school as anyone has. It came down to the last 15 minutes of the final day.

Frustrated by the rules and regimen, always impatient with what seemed trivial and insignificant, he spent his time here doing just enough to get by. His mother had written to share with me that her son, in her words, "had come into his own in college". He had reinvented himself as a poet and received a full scholarship for his senior year. His poetry is now described by his teachers as "stunning", "insightful", "penetrating" and "brilliant".

He is a young man who has taken advantage of the opportunity you will all have, that of reinventing yourself, imagining a direction in life, and pursuing a dream.

Upon leaving Walden Pond, Thoreau wrote:

"I learned this at least; that if one advances confidently in the direction of his dreams, and endeavors to live the life which he has imagined, he will meet with a success unexpected in common hours."

As you leave this place - be guided by the spirit of the Class of 2000, imagine a great life, advance with confidence, and you will meet with a success unexpected in common hours.

Thank you."

Bob Larbes teaches English to students in grades 11 and 12 and is the Advisor for the school newspaper, THE MUSTANG ECHOES. Previously he taught the Class of 2000 English when they were in 7th grade.



Congratulations
to
the Class of 2000
who placed
1st in the state in the
"Honors Writing"
and
"All 5 Honors"
sections of the Spring 2000
Ohio Proficiency Tests!

A Baccalaureate Message by Rick Tanner

"It's a great honor to be here tonight with so many of my favorite people. When I was asked by the Senior class officers to speak, I didn't have any idea of what I would tell you. What I am going to say in the next few minutes is probably not very profound or deep, but is more my observations and recollections from the last 40 years.

Let's begin with a definition from the dictionary - baccalaureate means simply "a farewell address to a graduating class" - in that light I want to speak to you about what I got from Madeira Schools and what it means to be a Madeira grad.

My parents moved us here in 1959, and I went to school here from the 6th grade on. I sat where you are now in June of 1966. My career in teaching at Madeira began in the fall of 1970, and the rest is of course ... <u>history!</u>

I thought I'd pass on to you what I value most highly from my experiences as a student and teacher, and I'd also like to tell you why they have made my career so satisfying and rewarding. To start out, I'd like to tell you a little story I once heard:

Legend has it that a professor at Stanford went to his class one day with a large, empty jar. He put some big stones into it until they reached the top. Then he asked the class if the jar was full. The class answered that it was. The professor said "No" and added some gravel. Then he asked again. The class again said it was full. Then he added some sand. And asked again. The class was sure it was full this time. The professor said "No" and added some water. He asked the students what they thought the lesson was. One student said, "No matter how full your plate, you can always add more." The professor said that wasn't the lesson, it was that if you want to put the 'big stones' in your life, you have to put them in first, or there won't be any room. Now let me tell you what the big stones have been in my life and where they came from.

When I was in High School, my football coach gave me a poem that I have kept all these years - it describes one of those big stones I want to share with you tonight:

"I'd rather see a sermon than hear one any day. I'd rather one should walk with me than merely show the way. The eye's a better pupil and more willing than the ear; Fine counsel is confusing, but example's always clear. And best of all the preachers are the men who live their creeds, For to see the good in actions is what everybody needs. I can soon learn how to do it if you'll let me see it done. I can watch your hands in action, but your tongue too fast may run. And the lecture you deliver may be very wise and true, But I'd rather get my lesson by observing what you do. For I may understand you and the high advice you give, But there's no misunderstanding how you act and how you live."

That poem reflects the first big stone of life that I learned from Madeira Schools; people learn most from how you act and live. Here at Madeira, I have been fortunate to have worked with, taught, and been led by persons of outstanding character. I've tried to learn from their actions much more than from what they have said.

When I look back on my years here, I think of families and how important they are to success. I've always been impressed with the involvement of parents with their kid's education. We all know that is

one of the reasons for the success of this district. It has also been a big part of my life. My own kids went through Madeira schools and my wife will continue teaching art at Sellman. So this district has been an integral portion of our lives, and I must say I am grateful for that. My Madeira years have taught me to treasure family life and you all do too. I see it every day in what you do and how you act.

I always felt I was prepared to take on the world after graduating from Madeira - I thought I was indestructible, and I never felt that I had led an isolated life like people say about Madeira. You will find that you can fit in anywhere, and handle just about any situation. I got a fine education here, but nothing compared to what you guys have had the last 12 years. This school has always had a high academic standard - it did even 40 years ago! I am indeed proud that our school has become even better since then. I feel like I had some part in making it better. And that's my next big stone in life - Madeira taught me to set and keep high standards for myself and for my students. I'm proud to say you rose to that occasion and met those standards. For that, I am proud of each one of you.

Motivation - dedication - and enthusiasm; three very important ingredients of success that I have tried to emulate. I learned all of them while at Madeira. I have discovered that whatever career you end up pursuing in your life, you will eventually end up with the attitude that you can't wait to get to work because it's so exciting, challenging, and rewarding that you are driven to find the best ways to do it better. You do it with every ounce of enthusiasm you can muster, and you do it even when you don't feel well. When you have that attitude, you will become committed and dedicated. If you don't end up with that attitude you will find another career. Fortunately, I found that attitude because I have been surrounded by people here in Madeira who have the same feeling about their careers.

That leads to my final 'big stone' of the evening - I learned tradition from Madeira. I believe in traditions, I study traditions, and they motivate me. They have made teaching here unique. Along with traditions go memories. The other day one of my colleagues asked what I will remember most about teaching in Madeira. That is impossible for me to answer because I remember just about everything because of traditions. But I will say when it comes right down to it, I will remember my students and what I learned from them.

As for you guys, let me just say what an honor it is to go out with all of you. The points I have made tonight were inspired by you. For the last four years, you made me teach by my examples rather than by my words alone. You and your parents taught me to be a better parent. You set high standards for me to attain as your teacher. You convinced me that it's OK to love teaching and to love my job. But most of all, you proved to me that self-motivation, dedication, and enthusiasm really pay off. I want everyone to know that I feel privileged to have received my education and spent my career in this district. I leave knowing full well that you and I did our best and somehow made MJSHS a better school.

As your teacher and as one of your best friends, I wish you a fabulous future. Go out there and show everyone what Madeira grads are all about. Fill your jars with the big stones first, and there will be plenty of room for your life dreams and ambitions."

Rick Tanner taught American History and American Cultures. He has also been an Advisor for the Madeira National Honor Society. After 30 years of teaching at Madeira schools, Mr. Tanner retired at the end of this school year.

A Graduation Message by Dr. Michele Hummel

"On behalf of the Board of Education... President Pat Gentile, Vice President Barb Buchholz, Members John Gilster, Skip Pressler and Andy Garman, please let me welcome you to the commencement ceremonies for the Class of 2000.

Commencement is a beginning and an ending; a sunrise and a sunset; it is the bridge between the warm, wonderful memories of childhood and the exciting opportunities of the future.

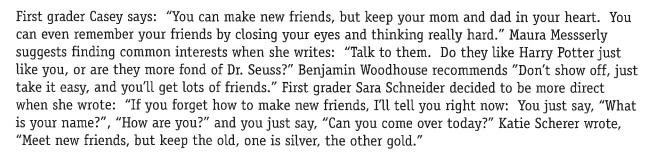
As we cross that bridge, I want to take you back to your childhood with some literature from your past. It's a book entitled, <u>Annie Bananie</u> by Leah Komaiko. I'd like to read some of it to you:

"Annie Bananie, my best friend, said we'd be friends to the end. Made me brush my teeth with mud, sign my name in cockroach blood, tie my brother to the trees, made me tickle bumblebees, promised we would always play, now Annie Bananie's going away ... Annie Bananie, do you think it's good leaving your whole neighborhood? ... How can you just go away? What about my next birthday? Annie Bananie, do not cry – even best friends say good-bye."

Whenever I am faced with life's tough situations I know I can always turn to our kindergarten through sixth grade students for some good advice. The students knew you would worry about leaving your current friends as well as meeting new ones.

The kindergartners said:

- $^{\mathcal{R}}$ Walk up and say "hi" to make new friends
- Have a nice smile and shake hands with each other
- $\overset{oldsymbol{\wedge}}{\mathcal{K}}$ Invite them to play hide-and-go-seek and to your next birthday party
- 🛱 Play nicely
- X Share your toys
- 党 Don't cheat in basketball
- $\mbox{\it \%}$ Give your friends pictures



The students had lots of ideas for staying in touch with family and friends. Meredith Rush said, "Get some stationery so you can write to your family and friends." Matt Luther concurs that you should



"Write letters instead of calling because of the bill." Henry Huntington thought it would be OK to use the telephone. He added a P.S., "If you don't know where to find them, look in a telephone book." Johnny suggested e-mail. Jeremy Necamp says, "If you really love your family, you should bring a picture of your family with you." Elizabeth North says you might ask your family to visit you. The students didn't want you to forget all the fun things you did in Madeira with your friends: Eating at the train station, the parades, the swim club, Sellman Spring Fling, Camp Kern, Sellman Olympics, Coffee Please (Craiq Bowers doesn't want you to forget their Café Mochas), the Art Fair and the street dance.

Michael Bennet and others wanted you to remember more sentimental times: That the year 2000 finally came, your first day of school, your first friend, sleepovers, your first boyfriend or girlfriend, your first prom. Michael says, "All of these memories will always be in your heart."

They are empathetic with you. Cathy writes, "If I were you, I would be very sad to leave my family and friends, but it seems pretty exciting, too. (Especially because you don't have to get grounded every day.) Michael Stewart had some "Tips": Just cry in your pillow and relax. Think of all the good times that you had together." Kate McPherson sums it up when she says, "Come back to visit. We'll be here in Madeira, just for you!"

We'll be here because you have touched our lives and touched our hearts. However, I'm not sure you realize what role models you have been for all the children of the community. There were so many letters that chronicled your relationship with the young students. I only wish I could share them all. I selected four examples.

Amy Riesenberg writes: "Dear Teen Counselors, Thank you for the time you spent with us talking about drugs. I really appreciate your time and effort... I had a really good time with you... I will say NO to drugs." Obviously you have made a significant impact!

Another student writes: "Dear Tim Dooley, You probably don't know me, my name is Cris Jonas, and I think you are really cool. . . You are great at quarterback. I played for the Colts this year, I also played quarterback. . . . every Friday night I would go to the football games to watch you play."

From a sixth grader: "Dear Bess Krietemeyer, You may go away to college and forget about Madeira, but you will never be forgotten. You are such a gifted basketball player. You have set a great example for all young female athletes. Thanks for being the best role model a girl could have. Sincerely, Your #1 fan, Stephanie."

You have certainly left your mark here. But the most touching letters were from your siblings. One that eloquently expressed the recurring theme was by Abby. "Dear Ashly Silberhorn, I know that you are leaving this year, but never forget that you always have people here that love you, and you'll always have a place to come home to when you need it."

Congratulations Class of 2000! Although the world is ready to welcome you with open arms, remember that there are people here to embrace you, too, when you need it.

Best wishes, We'll miss you."

Mikie Hummel is the Superintendent of Madeira City Schools. She also teaches a class at Xavier University on Board/Superintendent Relations.

Senior Class Awards

The following is a sampling of awards received on Awards Day, May 25, 2000.

JoAnn Grevas Memorial Service Award

Jennifer Greenert

Mustang Echoes Award

Julie Miller

Teen Counselor Recognition

Kristen Bounds, Hilary Burrows, Suzanne Farrell, Jon Garman, Dana Heitner, Allison Holmes, Mike King, Bess Krietemeyer, Abby Lobas, Craig Matasick, Brandi Miller, Michael Morgan, Jenny Phelan, Zach Reuter, Ryan Robertson, Linnzi Rust, Ann Staubach, Nic Uebel

Madeira Youth Week

Jeff West, Mike Morgan, Jon Garman, Jeff Bookout, Mike Farrell, Ryan Robertson, Kevin Longstreth, Blake Bolce, Adam Gratsch, Randy Lee, Fadi Khalilieh, Alex Berenson, Alex Temple, Chad Nichols, Matt Steier, Rob Davis, Zach Reuter, Russell Rohrscheib

Athletic Webmaster Appreciation Award

Tim Beekman

National Merit Scholarship Commended Scholars

Paul Glasser, Dana Heitner, Michael King, Zachary Reuter, Micholas Uebel

National Hispanic Recognition Program of the National Merit Program

Dani Acosta

Outstanding Four Year English Award

Hilary Burrows, Abby Lobas

Outstanding Four Year Social Studies Award

Paul Glasser

Spanish Senior Scholarship

Julie Miller

French V Award

Nic Uebel

AP Latin Award

Hilary Burrows

Outstanding Four Year Math Award

Nic Uebel

Outstanding Four Year Science Award

Mike King, Zach Reuter

Accounting Student of the Year

Jeff West

Congressional Art Competition

Katie Burger

Art Department Service Award

Aaron Ackerson

Madeira Woman's Club Scholarship

Nyssa Darter, Brandi Miller

Kenwood Woman's Club Scholarship

Brandi Miller, Linnzi Rust

John D. Rahe Foundation Scholarship

Nyssa Darter, Brandi Miller, Julie Miller, Ann Staubach

Sharon Stewart Scholarship

Linnzi Rust

Robert C. Byrd Scholarship

Dana Heitner

Ohio Regents Scholarship

Nic Uebel

Proctor & Gamble Fund

Carig Matasick

Northside Kiwanis Award

Dana Heitner

Roger Anderson, Jr. Outstanding Senior Boy

Zachary Reuter

Wilbur R. Korengel, Jr. Scholarship

Ford Wykoff

Greg Chase Tenacity Award

Tim Dooley

Nadine Wilson Scholarship

Bess Krietemeyer

OHSAA/Archie Griffin Sportsmanship Award

Jenny Phelan, Mike Novakov

OHSAA Scholar Athlete Award

Zach Reuter, Ann Staubach



Best Senior Boy and Senior Girl Athlete

Ann Staubach and Tim Dooley

Aaron Ackerson

plans to attend Wittenberg University

Dani Acosta plans to attend Ohio State University

Paul Andrews plans to attend University of Cincinnati

Steven Ballman plans to attend Northern Kentucky University

Timothy Beekman plans to attend David Lipscomb University

Alex Berenson plans to attend University of Cincinnati

Sarah Bickford plans to attend University of Cincinnati

Christopher Blanton plans to attend University of Cincinnati

Blake Bolce plans to attend University of Cincinnati

Jeffrey Bookout plans to attend University of Cincinnati Kristen Bounds plans to attend Morehead State University

Timothy Brock plans to attend University of Cincinnati Jennifer Brooks plans to attend Wright State University Sean Bryan plans to attend Carleton College Katie Burger plans to attend Raymond Walters

Christina Burroughs plans to attend University of Cincinnati

Hilary Burrows plans to attend Ohio State University

Renee Caesar's plans are undecided

Catherine Capistrant's plans are undecided

John Cardoza plans to attend Georgetown College

Brendan Carroll plans to attend University of Cincinnati

Jamie Clements plans to attend University of Cincinnati

Nyssa Darter plans to attend Ohio University

Robert Davis plans to attend Alabama A & M

Timothy Disbennett plans to attend Xavier University

Timothy Dooley plans to attend Bowling Green State University

Justin Edgell plans to attend Northern Kentucky University

John Elfring plans to attend Northern Kentucky University **Mike Farrell** plans to attend Miami University

Suzanne Farrell plans to attend Xavier University

Jonathan Garman plans to attend Indiana University

Paul Glasser plans to attend Purdue University

Stephanie Glassmeyer plans to attend Raymond Walters

Sarah Goldschmidt plans to attend Wittenberg University

Adam Gratsch plans to attend University of Cincinnati

Jennifer Greenert plans to attend Ohio State University

David Gregory plans to attend University of Tennesse

Katherine Gulick plans to attend University of Cincinnati

Brooke Gunther plans to attend University of Cincinnati

Heather Harrigan plans to attend Bowling Green State University

Dana Heitner plans to attend University of Wisconsin

Lauren Holland plans to attend Ball State University

Allison Holmes plans to attend Brigham Young University

Mark Hurst plans to attend University of Tennessee

Matthew Johnston plans to attend Kent State University

Susan Johnston plans to attend Ohio University

Kara Kalomeres plans to attend Miami University

Marie Kearns's plans are undecided

Fadi Khalilieh plans to attend University of Cincinnati

Michael King plans to attend Purdue University

Colleges and unviversities are listed only as where student's final transcripts are being sent.

Kelly Krekeler plans to attend Ramond Walters Elizabeth Krietemeyer plans to attend Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Kelly Lang plans to attend University of Dayton Randall Lee plans to attend University of Cincinnati **Abigail Lobas** plans to attend University of Michigan Amanda Long plans to attend University of South Carolina **Kevin Longstreth** plans to attend George Washington University Craig Matasick plans to attend University of Michigan **Jeff McConnaughey** plans to attend University of Cincinnati Andrea McDowell plans to attend University of South Carolina Kevin Messer plans to attend Muskingham Area Technical College **Brandi Miller** plans to attend University of Tennessee Julie Miller plans to attend University of Cincinnati Michael Morgan plans to attend University of Cincinnati Lindsay Murden plans to attend University of Cincinnati Daniel Nagy plans to attend Ohio State University **Chad Nichols** plans to attend Bowling Green State University Jerry Nosouvanh plans to enter the work force Michael Novakov plans to attend Ohio State University Maurice Oehmann has returned to Germany Ryan Opichka plans to attend John Carroll University Jennifer Phelan plans to attend Xavier University Jonathan Pomerov plans to attend Guilford College Angela Purdy plans to attend University of Cincinnati Zachary Reuter plans to attend Virginia Tech Ryan Robertson plans to enter the US Navy Amy Rouse plans to attend Miami University Sally Rusche plans to attend Indiana University Linnzi Rust plans to attend Bowling Green State University Cooper Rutledge plans to attend Bowling Green State University Adam Scheuer plans to attend University of Tennessee Allison Shaw plans to attend Indiana University Ashly Silberhorn plans to attend Bowling Green State University **Ann Staubach** plans to attend Denison University Matthew Steier plans to attend University of Tennessee Zachary Stuntebeck plans to attend University of Cincinnati

Sixty-nine members of this year's Senior class received Ohio Proficiency Vouchers in the amount of \$500 each for a total of \$34,500. Senior scholarships and financial aid/grants totaled \$2,455,210.00.



(Front Row L to R): Nic Uebel (Co-Salutatorian) Sean Bryan **Zach Reuter Hilary Burrows (Co-Salutatorian)** Dana Heitner (Valedictorian) (Back Row L to R): **Ann Staubach Bess Krietemeyer Abby Lobas Kara Kalomeres Kara Wittenberg** Anna Wolke Jenny Phelan **Craig Matasick Paul Glasser** Mike King



Top Seniors of the Class of 2000



What's Inside...

A special
issue of the
District
Digest
dedicated to
the Madeira
High School
Class of
2000



Madeira City Schools

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