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Class of 2021 President

### When One Door Closes, Another One Opens

Good evening. I want to start by being totally open and honest. I kind of put this speech off till the last possible minute, not because I didn't want to write it, but because none of this felt real, I just couldn't believe that graduation was already here. And honestly I had a really hard time finding the words to explain our time together at Sayville. So hopefully, the rest of this speech reminds us of the value of the time we shared.

On behalf of the class of 2021, I want to begin by saying thank you to everyone who has been such a significant part of our lives here at Sayville....

Thank you to Dr. Stimmel, Members of the Board of Education, Dr. Criscione, Mr. Hoffer and members of the Sayville Schools administration for everything that you do and for making all of this possible. And for giving us the traditional graduation that we dreamed of.

To our class advisors Mrs. Perlin and Mrs. Methven, I honestly don't even know where to begin. Thanks for being the absolute best class advisors we could have ever asked for. You both have put so much dedication and time into this class, and we are forever thankful. Thank you for making these past four years unforgettable and always knowing what to do when we were confronted with a problem. Even in the most stange of times, you found a way to make our senior year so very memorable.

Thank you to every teacher within the Sayville District that has influenced us and inspired us in more ways than you could probably imagine.

I would like to give a special thank you to all the parents that worked so hard to help us make this year what it was. You all have been there, not only for your own child, but for the class as a whole. Words can't even explain how amazing you have truly been. Thank you for your support and everything you have done for us, for that we will forever be in your debt.

And thank you mom and dad for always being in my corner, and for supporting me in everything that I do. You guys are truly the best.

I would also like to give a huge thank you to my fellow classmates. If it wasn't for you, I wouldn't be standing here today. Thank you for believing in me and allowing me to lead our class. It has been a true honor, and an unforgettable experience that has truly shaped me into who I am today. I also want to say thank you for the laughs, the ups and downs, and the endless memories that we all share. Meghan McLaughlin, thank you for being an amazing friend and for forcing me to run for Vice President with you freshman year...it was seriously one of the best things that you could have peer pressured me into.

Katie, Chris, and Matt Zender thank you for being the most awesome triplets ever, and being some of the strongest and kindest people I know.

Aidan McCullough, I am definitely going to butcher this but merci pour tous les sourires, that was supposed to say thank you for all the smiles. I swear there has never once been a day where you didn't walk into a room with a huge smile on your face, beaming with positivity.

Jenna Buyes, thank you for being a great friend to everyone

Hannah Blaskiewicz, you are one of the sweetest and most humble people I have ever met, never stop being you.

Olivia Martino, you are always so friendly passing by with a smile on your face in the halls

Alex Millwater, I am going to miss reminding you that we have gym

Michael Covais, if you have never talked to Michael you may not know this but he truly has a heart of gold.

All in all, I am so proud of our class for everything that we have done and look forward to seeing everything we will accomplish in the future.

Throughout the past four years, we have grown into the individuals we are today. We came from three different yet amazing elementary schools when we entered middle school. Making friends that would last a lifetime and creating memories that are unforgettable.

We took trips to Boston and Frost Valley, making memories that we probably took for granted in the moment. But looking back we were all together as a class, having so much fun. In Boston, our minds were blown when the duck boat went from land to water. And in Frost Valley we laughed together as we did the mannequin challenge while climbing up a hill, and screamed together when the teachers walked us blindfolded into the woods and then left us, only to scare us as we tried to find our way back.

We came together to make an amazing Toy Story float for homecoming junior year. We won with our skit starring Brett Doxsee, Chloe McCormack Falk, Anna White, Nate Perez, Brenden Meserve, Nicholas Gibbons, Tabitha Degrange and Emilia Pasquale....Now that is something I will never forget.

For years we complained about having to get up early and go to school every day, yet this past year we realized how significant school actually was to us. Not being able to get up to go to school created a hole in our lives. This year, we begged to go back full time. I remember we all said "a two week break would be so nice", little did we know it would have turned into what it did and we would actually miss going to school.

At the beginning of this year, everything was so unknown...not until recently did we find out that we would be able to have a normal prom and a traditional graduation...better late than never though. And we are all so grateful.

I believe the greatest lesson we learned as seniors was to be grateful for the little things in life. Nothing is permanent, nothing is guaranteed. We cannot always control what happens in our lives, but what we can control is our outlook on everything. Life is fragile and it is important to live everyday to the fullest. We have to stop and enjoy every moment. Life flies by, we can all attest to that. It feels like just yesterday we were running around on the playground as little elementary school kids, and now we are sitting here in our caps and gowns graduating. These past years may have seemed to drag on for many of us, but now, looking back, it's as if we

blinked and it was all gone. Time does not stop however, and it does not go backwards, so we cannot let any moment pass us by.

Alexander Graham Bell said “When one door closes, another opens; but we often look so long and so regretfully upon the closed door that we do not see the one which has opened for us.” Instead of focusing so much on what we are missing out on or what we are losing, (this year especially we learned) we should be focusing on everything else we do have. If we don't, life will just pass us by. Today, as we graduate, the doors of Sayville High School close behind us, yet there are numerous new doors opening right in front of us. These doors will lead us to accomplish our dreams, conquer our fears, and create a life for ourselves as independent and strong adults.

As those doors open and we transition into this new part of our lives, a lot may change. Today is our last day being Sayville High School students, when we graduate today we will go off to explore the world and all the opportunities it has to offer us. While things get serious, it is important to remember to breathe and look back on everything going on. If you look under your chair, you will find bubbles. Please grab them. Blowing bubbles makes us happy because it forces us to pause, focus on a single activity, and to think about our breathing. It can help release tension, bring back positive energy and stress relieving childhood memories. So whether the next steps of our paths make us worried or excited, we have bubbles to blow to remind us to focus on the positive and just breathe. Opening these doors may seem scary, and our futures may seem full of the unknown, but I know that our class will find great success in everything that we do. We will continue to grow as we enter the next chapter of our lives, whether it is college, the military, or the job force. And I have no doubt that we will all accomplish amazing things.

So everyone let's blow some bubbles, making one last memory together as a whole class.

Golden Flashes, it is time to open those doors, move forward confidently and make your mark on the world.

Thank you.