

## **Riley Dudley - Salutatorian**

Hello everyone. I don't really know how to start this speech and I do not have high expectations that this is going to go well. Part of me is glad that this is online so I don't have to see your faces if this goes wrong. But if I have learned anything in these past four years its to not prejudice my audience. (Thanks for that one Ms. Shapiro). I guess I should say thank you to all of you that are watching today and taking part in celebrating the class of 2020. This is definitely not what any of us thought this would look like and its crazy that I am giving this from my kitchen table. I ordered a strange-looking white graduation gown because I was really expecting us to be sitting outside in 100 degree weather and frankly I want a refund. If there is a silver lining to this though, this online ceremony is memorable. And that, I believe, is fitting of this graduating class, as I can't think of a more memorable group of people.

I could talk about how memorable the class of 2020 is just based on pure talent. There are I believe seven kids graduating this year who qualified for national competitions in their sports and activities. One of them is someone who I think we can all agree might end up at the Olympics someday (Go Joslin!). This is the class that has won multiple state titles, reinvented clubs like Link Crew and the Devils' Advocate, helped create new traditions like Devil Duels, and has kids on career paths to direct movies in Hollywood and star in Broadway shows. There's multiple people in this class that received full rides to college, which is absolutely incredible. There is no doubt in anyone's mind that the class of 2020 is successful, and that we brought greatness to Eagle Valley High School.

Beyond sheer talent, however, the class of 2020 is memorable because of the incredible people that define it and the amazing memories we have all made together. I know that every single person graduating today is incredibly unique and has something about them that makes us stand out from the rest of the crowd. There is a girl graduating today who I watched fail MISERABLY at eating a burrito yet she will be majoring in biopsychology at Tufts University next year. In one of my classes, we had a classroom party complete with a red carpet and Martinelli's, and every single person in the room was all for it, never mind the social humiliation that could come with walking into high school in a prom dress on a regular Thursday. There's the group who daily plays a card game as hilarious as it is ruthless: Uno. Two of the most badass people in this class when they had the chance to debate each other on stage instead took the time to complement each other's haircuts (it was pathetic). And I will never forget Finn Mott's face when he forced the school newspaper crew to loop Splash Mountain at Disney because he was dead set on getting me soaked, even though that plan backfired spectacularly (sorry Finn).

My point is, the class of 2020 is destined for great things. All of you are going to live up to your potential within the next few years, and I for one cannot wait to hear about what the EVHS class

of 2020 achieves in the future. Never stop winning, never stop growing, and never stop doing the things that make this class so incredibly unique. This class, as we know, will always be remembered as the one that had to do an online graduation. However, I know for a fact that because of the incredible people graduating today, we will also be remembered for so much more. Thank you all so much.