

Good evening, as Ms. Lystrup has us do before every presentation, I will introduce myself. Hi everyone, I'm Logan Tiska and I am truly honored to be standing up here tonight.

I invite all of my peers to take a long journey back to August of 2019. If you were to look into your camera roll, you would probably find pictures of your lock, ten different screenshots of your schedule, and some questionable mirror pictures from Old Navy where you were trying on shorts that were in dress code. Okay maybe the last one is just me, but nonetheless... I'm sure you can all remember the stress of figuring out what to wear to lock in, hoping that you wouldn't fall asleep, wondering if you should bring a sleeping bag, And then starving because you didn't eat dinner and have only had 1 slice of pizza, only to become too distracted by your first senior crush to even care.

Then ...the first day of high school, being a small freshman walking through the halls amongst the senior kings, queens, and non-binary monarchs of the school. The seniors always seemed so sure of themselves and appeared to have their lives together, that everything was going perfectly.

It didn't seem long after that it was suddenly August 17th of 2022, and personally speaking, I had absolutely no idea what was going on. I was walking around the halls, Red Bull in hand, half asleep from working on college apps, for schools that I'd never heard of, applying for the major I think I should commit the next part of my life to. Not to be cliché but I was just as Clueless as Cher. The truth is, if we come back to the present day, I think we can all agree that even those of us who have the next 4-8 years of our lives "planned out" that we truly don't know what is going on. And another truth within that matter, since we are already on the honesty train, ... is that the class before us, the class before them, and so on and so forth, had no idea what was going on either. The problem with being a teenager now aside from drugs, school shootings,

depression, bullying, and anxiety. We think that we need to know what is going on, and what our future holds. But the funny thing about the future is that we have absolutely no control over what it holds or what is to come. We can plan, and prepare as much as we want, but at the end of the day whatever happens is going to happen whether we want it to or not.

The bigger point I'm leaving you all with today is the same adage we hear and read about in almost all of our classes at CB: Live in the moment. I, much like many of you, worked my butt off these past four years to create a perfect résumé. To have just the right number of “difficult” classes, the exact number of extracurricular activities, and perform well in sports. And yet, with a resume as close to perfect as I could get, I still didn't get into my dream school. In this effort of trying to control the uncontrollable, I missed out on so many opportunities to make new friends and go on awesome trips. While school is important, **and** we should never give up a thrill for knowledge, just as important is building connections with the people in your life who make you happy. Spending quality time with friends and family, going on walks to the river, going to Oscar's for a burrito after practice with your team, playing games in your D set Gov class, asking your crush to prom, these will bring you 10 times the amount of joy an A on an essay will. That feeling of laughter, fun, and pure happiness is what matters.

Sorry Ms. Safford, but we may not all remember everything we learned in math, but we will remember the blissful 20 minutes of Tea Time every Thursday at break. These 20 minutes only happened once a week, but it was a time to chat with friends and catch up from a week of tests and homework. Though our Liturgies are wonderful, the memory that will stick out from my time at CB will be throwing paper airplanes on the kairos bus after an amazing week of getting to know some of my classmates and myself a lot better. I bet most of us couldn't state more than five elements on the periodic table, but we all remember the score of holy bowl

freshman year (30-27). And we all remember all of the countless hours spent by players and coaches working to perfect every aspect of the sports that we dedicated our time and efforts to. Knowing who started WW1 is miniscule compared to the war of fighting the juniors for a parking spot. At 8:30am every morning the parking lot looks like a battlefield, however, the moment we enter the gates, the white flag waves and we become lasallian students who have respect for each other. Until 3:10 and the truce is over, I'm just kidding.....

If you could take one thing away from everything I've said, let it be that we need to live in the moment, in order to truly appreciate and value the gift of the life that each of us has. As master Ugai from Kung-fu Panda says "Today is a gift" PAUSE and let that gift be spent with people you care about, doing everything that you love, **and** going on crazy adventures. So I would like to wish the Class of 2023 luck with your future endeavors whatever they may be and that you will be able to truly find happiness in every aspect of your lives as we never know what tomorrow may hold, but we know what today has to offer. Thank you class of 2023 and Congratulations.