

Cameron Kelly Graduation Speech – Valedictorian 2010

My name is Cameron Kelly, and I am honored to be the Valedictorian of the Lutheran High School graduating class of 2010. I would first like to begin by welcoming all of the staff, family members, friends, and fellow graduates of Lutheran High School, and on behalf of the graduating class of 2010, I would also like to thank you all for attending tonight's ceremonies.

Graduation is a time to remember the past, but also to look toward our futures. It is one last chance to celebrate and remember the memories of high school with the people we have made those memories with, and I could not ask for a better class to have made memories with.

My memories with the class of 2010 began my sophomore year. After being home schooled all my life, my parents and I decided it was time for me to enter a true classroom environment. My parents decided on a small private school I had never even heard of and never even noticed before. I never would have guessed that this tiny high school, known fondly by some as "the school with the big tower," would have left such a lasting impact on my life.

I have so many fond memories at Lutheran High. I will never forget my first spirit lunch at Lutheran. My class decided I would represent the sophomores in the game "eat it or wear it." Of course, only having been at the school for a month I didn't really know what this game was. Well to make a long story short, I got stuck with eating raw sardines in a dill mustard sauce, which was honestly the most disgusting thing I have ever eaten. However, looking back on it, this memory never fails to bring a smile to my face.

Junior year brought even more memorable moments. I played my first season of varsity basketball. It was a season of ups and downs, but a season of memorable and fun moments on and off the court. From a team visit to the Calistoga Cemetery to a come-from-behind win against Faith, it truly was a season I will never forget. Junior year also meant that we were finally upper classmen and what a relieving feeling it was.

Finally senior year came. Our class had grown to 23, and as the biggest class in the school by far, we were prepared to go out with a bang. Senior year brought a lot of hard work and responsibility, but also a lot of fun. As Student Council President, I saw firsthand how prepared to lead and how enthusiastic this senior class was. This year's senior class was always getting involved with spirit weeks; they got people excited to come to dances; they showed so much support for athletics; and they truly made this a very memorable and exciting year.

My favorite memory of senior year has to be our senior class trip, which was a cruise to Ensenada, Mexico. I'll never forget walking into my cabin to find A.C. wearing a poncho with the colors of the Mexican flag on it. I'll never forget Jacob dancing at dinner every night. I'll never forget the nights of karaoke. I'll never forget salsa dancing in the hall. I'll never forget the late night buffets where our whole class just sat around and talked, and I'll never forget spending five days with my best friends in the whole world. Senior year was a year of hard work and lots of responsibility. It was at times stressful, almost overwhelming, but senior year was by far the most enjoyable and exciting at Lutheran. I believe this is due to the amazing senior class, a

willing faculty to help us make it fun, and a student body ready for just as much fun as the seniors were.

I will be the first person to tell you that Lutheran is not your average, everyday, “run of the mill” high school. What other high school do you know of that you have the opportunity to go out into the community and help people? What other high school do you know that gives you the opportunity to play whatever sport you want? What other high school do you know of that a teacher is willing to give you a ride home if you need one? What other high school do you know of where the student body is like one big family, or where the teachers go out of their way to make sure you are doing well in class? Well, Lutheran High School has all these attributes and more. I have been truly blessed to have attended such a unique and extraordinary school.

Graduation is somewhat of a “bittersweet” time. It is a time in which we are leaving all that we know and love. Graduation is the time that signals that high school is but a memory. However, graduation is also the time when we “leave the nest”; it is the very beginning of our independent lives. We all now forge our own paths into the unknown. We all are looking toward the future, toward the new trials and rewards of life.

The thought of leaving all that we are familiar with can be a very scary thought. Our class verse is Jeremiah 29:11. It says, “‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.’” This verse assures us we can look toward the future without fear or anxiety, because God already has set wonderful plans for us.

God obviously knows the plans he has set before, and these truly were plans to prosper us. Take this class and this school for example. God has put us in a school with teachers who care who you are and how you are doing and students who are like family. He has put us in a school with a mission and a heart for Christ. Now we must continue to take refuge in and trust God and his plans for us as we continue our lives.

Lutheran High truly is a blessing to us. It is a school that allows us to break the mold and try things we never would be given an opportunity to try at other schools. This quality gives us such an advantage as we look toward our futures. It has instilled in us self-confidence; it has instilled in us a desire to try new things; and it has instilled in us the belief that we can do anything if we set our minds to it. Lutheran High also has instilled in us a strong Christian foundation, a foundation that we will build our lives upon.

Once again I would like to thank you all for coming tonight to show your support. I also would like to thank all of you that have supported the graduating class of 2010 and Lutheran High School. I would like to thank all the teachers and faculty of Lutheran High School for putting up with us, for helping us achieve this moment, and for taking the time to care for each and every student. I would like to thank all the families that have supported us every step of the way, in whatever we needed.

Finally, I would like to thank all the students of Lutheran High School. Thank you for making this school feel like a family, and thank you for supporting us. You are truly blessed to attend

this school, and you truly are amazing people. I know Lutheran High School will continue to grow and prosper in your hands.

I am very proud to be part of the Lutheran High School graduating class of 2010. The class of 2010 is made up of diverse individuals, with many skills and many talents. I hope that my class and I have left a lasting impression on this school.

Thank you and God bless.