

## Hung Kieu Graduation Speech – Salutatorian 2010

Good evening and welcome to all families, friends, and faculty of Lutheran High School. My name is Hung Kieu, and I am glad to be here at this moment to give a speech as the salutatorian of the class of 2010.

Not long ago, as graduation was approaching, I kept on thinking, is it real that my high school life will end? Am I going to see my friends again? Is it possible for me to have more time to spend with my friends? And many other questions began to pop in my head. And, every time, following these questions are the images of my years at Lutheran High. Until now, I can still remember clearly my first impression of Lutheran High.

Truthfully, I was really surprised after realizing the size of the school. However, after spending three years here, I recognized that the size of the school is not what matters; the factors that really influence me are the teachers and my friends. Thanks to the small size of Lutheran High, I was able to study with the teachers who always show concern and care for students; especially when they know each student's personality and academic potential. I think being able to study in a small environment also helped me to improve my English skills quicker. Because this is a small school, every student knows each other; hence, it is very easy to be friends with one another. And thanks to that, my English skills improved day by day through communication and activities.

Moreover, Lutheran High is also a suitable place for me because it has a religion program that not many schools have. Being born and raised in a Christian family, my parents were always concerned about my faith when they sent me to the United States. Because religion is a required subject, I am able to listen to the gospel every day as a reminder for me about my faith in God.

Today I am able to be here as a speaker of the class of 2010, all thanks to the effort of my parents, the teachers at Lutheran High, and the inspiration I got from my friends. Right now, the first person I want to say thanks to is my father and mother. Even though they are not here today, I want to thank them for the hard time they have spent to let me come here and study. Thanks dad and mom for all of the hopes and expectations you have set on me.

I also want to say thanks to the teachers of Lutheran High for all of the hard work you have done for us during the last three years. Especially to Mrs. Powers who always gives me a great smile as encouragement for me to start my day; to Mrs. Elledge for every wisdom she has taught me; to Mrs. Galloway, who has shown me how to view the world as a scientist; to Mr. Bost, who opened my eyes to many other cultures of the world through literature; also to Mr. Simmons who always uses creative images to help me simplify my math problems; and to Rev. Berndt who has strengthened my faith in God and my knowledge of computers. Lastly, but also important, I want to thank Mr. Maddock who has made a big change in my life. Thanks to him, I have been healthy for the last three years. If I was not in his PE class, I would never know how important exercise is to my life since I always focused on studying since I was young. He is also a great Government, History, and Economics teacher who has provided me useful information with his side-discussions. I am really thankful for what I have learned from all of you during the past

three years. I promise, from now on I will concentrate more on my career and future so that I can be successful as your expectation.

As I am talking about Lutheran High right now, many images are appearing in my head: the pictures of friends I made in Lutheran High during these past three years, and specially the class of 2010. The images of them in my mind have always been the same. I will start off with the first friend I made at school; his name is Yu-Hsuan Wu. My first impression about him was that he is a big guy but very shy and every word he spoke has a sense of humor in it. Throughout these years of high school, he along with my friends have made me the person I am today.

Because I am an International Student, and Lutheran High School is the first school I've attended in America, it's obvious that my first American friend was from Lutheran. Yet, he is also a member of the class of 2010, in my mind, he matches perfectly the image that I have about Americans. He is friendly, optimistic, open-minded and humorous. He is Anthony Enriquez. Being able to talk to him casually, I've become for friendly, open, and outgoing. Yiwen, Cameron, and Jacob are also the names that quickly stick in my mind due to their friendly and humorous personalities.

As time passed, I've been able to make more friends and learn more about their personalities. Hannah, Breanna, and Matthew always appear in my mind as three professional singers. Katie, Rachel, Courtney, and Samm, on the other hand, are professional athletes; they are competitive and hardworking in everything they do. Tyler always appears in my mind as a comedian or an actor; I think he will be very famous in the entertainment industry in the future. Cassie, although I don't know her well, I fell that she is a friendly and very helpful person. A.C. individually gives me a surprise in his personality. Even though I've been studying with him for two and a half years, due to his aggressiveness, never-give-up attitude in sports and his serious effort in class, I have had wrong impression of him. At first, I though he was very heard to get to know, but recently I found out that not only is he friendly, but he's also a very open person and more than that he has a great voice. He seems to be perfect in every aspect.

Hang, Ngoc Pham, Ngoc Tran, and Kyoung are the first close friends I've had who are girls. It seems like I can share all my thoughts with them anytime I want. Tony and Phu are my other close friends, and I'm glad that I was able to be friends with them at Lutheran High. During these years, I also had a lot of other close friends like Khoa, Nguyen, Buu, Phuong, Long, Chloe, and Adam. Thank you all for your support of me during these years.

All the time I've spent with you guys is very memorable and precious to me. I could never forget the senior trip or the other trips that I had with the class of 2010 during these years. Our memories and all the experiences we have had at Lutheran High are the things that have helped mold and shape us into the people we are today. These knowledge and experiences will be the helpful luggage we can take as we step on a new path of our lives. Yet, I would like to use the words from one of my favorite songs, *Friends Forever* by Vitamin C, to sum up my feelings: "As we go on, we remember all the time we had together, and as our lives change, come whatever, we will still be friends forever." Thank you and congratulations to the graduating class of 2010.