

# Valedictorian Address

**Raegan Tylar Workman**  
Perquimans County High School  
Class of 2018  
Valedictorian



WORKMAN

Good evening parents, faculty, friends, family, and fellow graduates. We have come a long way to arrive at this very special day. From Pre-K to now we have walked the halls of four schools learning from a variety of teachers. Central School and Hertford Grammar School taught us our basics and gave us a firm foundation for what was ahead. Throughout middle school we were told our experiences in middle school were going to help us be prepared for high school ... Middle school where you walk in a straight quiet line, with

no phones, and the most freedom we got was recess. When we finally got to high school, things were pretty much the exact opposite from middle school, as we now had the freedom to walk on the left side of the hall if we wanted to or use our phones more liberally. This freedom was a big change as the teachers and staff were preparing us to be more responsible on our own. Students always have many different views when first entering high school as a freshman. Where am I go-

ing to sit at lunch? How will I find my way around without getting lost? And some didn't know what to expect at all. I on the other hand being a teacher's kid have walked these halls since before I knew how to walk so I was already familiar with the whereabouts of classes and who the teachers were. No matter what your view was upon entering high school, we entered into a new territory where we had the freedom to find our own identity through theater, sports, band, and other clubs or even just finding a group of friends where you fit in and can be yourself.

As sophomore year commenced, we became a little more comfortable with this new territory, we had found

a place where we could fit in, and most importantly we were no longer freshmen. During our sophomore year, we set through the plan, a long test to see who was eligible for college courses the following year. This is also the year the majority of us were able to drive to school. I remember seeing some of you and thinking to myself, "Where did the time go, they're not old enough to drive — then I realized I am the same age."

Junior year was probably the most serious time throughout high school. We had to start looking into what we wanted to be when we grew up and moved on to the real world. We began looking for a desired career and colleges that we wanted

to attend to obtain that goal. We started taking more tests, the ACT and SAT, to be able to get into those desired schools, and we all tried harder in classes to get our GPA up. Junior year was not all serious though; this was the first year we could get into prom without an upperclassmen getting us in.

Finally, we made it to senior year. We made it through four years of memories. We made it through both the good times and the bad times. We made it through four years of testing. We made it through the Senioritis. We made it together! We all got here by being our unique selves, but we couldn't do it alone. We couldn't have made it without those teachers who went the extra mile to help us

achieve our best. We couldn't have done it without our parents encouraging us every step of the way to be the best we could be to help us arrive at this point. And we couldn't have done it without each other — our friends who have been here for us through it all over the past four years as we have made memories along the way.

As we move on into the real world we will see this cycle again no matter what path we choose, whether it be college, military, or going straight to a job. We will enter a new territory where it will be awkward and scary at first, just like when we were freshmen, but if you be true to yourself you will find your path and find life long friends along the way.

# Salutatorian Address

**McKenzie Faith Twine**  
Perquimans County High School  
Class of 2018  
Salutatorian



TWINE

I want to start off tonight with a moment of candor. As I sat down to write this speech I was originally unsure of what to say. I wondered how it was possible to put four years of experiences in to one speech. And well, I now have an answer. It is impossible. There is no compilation of words in which I can use to describe the high school experience of everyone sitting before me tonight. We are athletes, scholars, band and drama geeks, rule breakers, and of course, the life of the party. We are all our own person, even though it may not always have felt that way in high school. After tonight we will have the opportunity to use these differences to

help better the world as we have made it to one of our greatest victories, graduation.

Many of you sitting here likely thought this day would never come, I know I did. It seemed as if I was destined to roam the halls of Perquimans County High School waiting for the day when I could finally leave. Now let me tell you something that you probably already know, that day is today. But before we say goodbye to high school though, I feel as if we should take some time to reflect first.

Four years have gone by in the blink of an eye for many,

it sometimes seems as if it was just yesterday that we were entering Perquimans County High School as the annoying freshmen. And yes, no matter how often we say we weren't that annoying, we definitely were. We drove all of the upperclassmen crazy, but hey it was a rite of passage. This first year was also the year in which we lost our fellow classmate Mustafa Holley, he was actually preceded in death by Miles Shipman. Both of these classmates should have been sitting here with us today and they are greatly missed.

Our sophomore and junior years were filled with more stability. We were no longer the bottom of the totem pole, but we were not yet at the top either. During these years we also cemented the friendships we

had made in years prior as we watched football games, played sports, and became more active in clubs as well as the art programs. At that point in time I don't think any of us had prepared ourselves for what was to come senior year.

Senior year for me personally, has been one of the most challenging yet rewarding years of my high school career. I have accomplished so much in finishing my classes and applying for college. I have also spent so much, I'm pretty sure that my parent's wallets are weeping under the weight of graduation announcements, my cap and gown, prom dresses, as well as all the other miscellaneous expenses that come with senior year. So, I thank them greatly for all that they have done for me and I encour-

age to thank your parents as well. Without them many of us would not have made it out the door this evening. I also want to extend a thank you to our teachers and administrators who have made this day possible for us all, you are all rock stars and have made these last four years more bearable.

I would now like to leave you with a final thought, as I know we are all ready for the moment in which we can turn our tassels and be official graduates of Perquimans County High School. This is your victory, not anyone else's victory. Everything that you have done these past four years should fill you with pride as you have now accomplished one of the lengthiest goals of your life, and there is still more to come. There is a quote by Theodore Roos-

velt that I think fits very well with this victory. It is a bit long so bear with me.

"The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena; whose face is marred by sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs and comes short again and again because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotion, spends himself in a worthy cause; who at best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement; and who at worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who have never tasted victory or defeat." Now my fellow classmates, it is your job to go forth and do great things, have many more great victories. Thank you.

## GRADUATION

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do it alone. We couldn't have made it without those teachers who went the extra mile to help us achieve our best. We couldn't have done it without our parents encouraging us every step of the way to be the best we could be to help us arrive at this point. And we couldn't have done it without each other."

For a random sampling of some graduates, being at a small school was not a bad thing at all.

Emily Paolone said a small area has advantages.

"You are able to make connections with people in the community, and unlike large schools, you are a person with a personality, and not just a number."

She plans to attend UNC Pembroke and major in biology with a concentration toward zoology. From there is will be on to N.C. State University to study in the veterinary school.

The goal is to be a zoo veterinarian.

"I've always loved animals and have wanted to save them, but the past year I've thought instead of sticking with smaller animals, I'd

want to work in zoo." Her favorite animal is the giraffe.

The education, she believes, will also allow her to study aboard.

For Bailey Joyner, she's ready to go on her next quest, to get an education as an athletic trainer.

"I've enjoyed these years, and I think Perquimans County schools have taught me a lot. I liked the curriculum and enjoyed that classes I've had, especially my health science classes. The next thing is to be an athletic trainer."

She plans to attend East Carolina University for that.

"I feel I am prepared, but I'm kind of scared."

Nicholas Buchanan has his sights set on Western Carolina University.

"I feel Perquimans has prepared me," Buchanan said.

His favorite part of the high school experience was band where among other things he played the clarinet. He picked WCU because of the band.

"I love the Pride of the Mountains Marching band and that's a good place to start."

Kathryn Kelley said theater and health science courses were her favorite, and she

agreed that a small school atmosphere was good.

"I've gotten a lot of good things out of the school system. You get more attention at a small school and you build better relationships."

Her next step is the Air Force.

"It will get my foot in the door for the medical field," she said. Her goal is to get into physical therapy.

Her father served in the Merchant Marines and that helped inspire her to want to travel and meet new people and see new places. She figures the Air Force is the best ticket.

Rashida Bynes said her high school years were her best.

"I hate to leave. I really hate to leave, but you have to sometimes."

For now she won't be going far. She plans to attend College of The Albemarle to study cosmetology. Then she plans to attend Elizabeth City State University.

"After that I want to open my own hair salon."

But after all that, she will be ready to hit the road. But Friday night she repeated she really hates to leave PCHS.

Workman, the valedictorian, said the high school experience allowed her to

do so much more.

"Perquimans High school has helped me prepare for college. I've liked that we get to do dual enrollment."

She's graduating high school with 55 college credits, or four credits shy of being a college junior. She also made the President's List at College of The Albemarle last semester.

All of her college courses were taken on-line with the exception of one she had to take at COA that she'll need in order to get to be a Certified Nursing Assistant.

The health science courses she's taken in high school have also helped her toward her ultimate goal of being a neonatal nurse. She needs the CNA certification in order to enroll at UNC Chapel Hill in the nursing school.

Tabatha Cox moved from a large school in New Jersey to Perquimans County and likes it, but admits she won't be staying.

"I think Perquimans schools have offered me a good education. I like that it is small."

She enjoyed the agriculture classes she took with teacher Angel White, Workman's mother, but doesn't see that as her ultimate goal and she doesn't see staying in North Carolina.

The short-term plan is to get her Associate's Degree from COA and then move on to get her teaching degree from Elizabeth City State.

"I want to teach special education. For a while I was stuck between animals and cooking but it hit me this year that special ed was what I really needed to do. Right now I'm not ready to graduate, but once I get all my degrees, I am out of here. I want to go to somewhere that pays teachers well."

The Perquimans County Sheriff's Office had to arrest one spectator Friday night when he tried to use an air horn during the awarding of diplomas.

Sheriff Shelby White said when John Banks was coming in toward graduation, a deputy saw Banks had an air horn and was told he couldn't take it in.

"Somehow he managed

to sneak it in," White said.

At one point, White said Banks tried to use the air horn and it didn't work, and he threw it onto the view. A deputy seeing that, told Banks he'd have to go pick it up or he'd be charged with littering.

"He (the deputy) didn't mean he had to go pick it up right then, but he jumped down on the field and started yelling and screaming."

At that point, Banks, 35, of Poplar Branch Road, was charged with disorderly conduct. He was taken before a magistrate and released.

White said some in the audience didn't like that Banks was arrested.

"But then as I was walking out, and I had other people say we did a good job. Like everything we do in law enforcement, there will be some folks who like it and some folks that don't."

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## SHERIFF

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a resource officer at every school.

White said for the 20 years he's worked there, the department has never had a dedicated narcotics officer. Before Sheriff Eric Tiley retired and White was a sheriff's investigator, White said he would do narcotics cases as time allowed.

Getting at narcotics crime is a key thing for White, he said. It's often the reason behind other crimes including violent ones.

"This is something I've been really wanting," White said of the new position.

"When I was an investigator I did a lot of drug work and there are 40 people now in federal prison and well over 200 state cases that I worked. I'd hope a drug agent coming in and working full time on it, can surpass what I did part-time."

He said many of the drug crimes deputies catch are the result of traffic stops, and often they are the lower level offenders. White wants to target the middle and upper level drug criminals.

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