

## **Graduation Quote/Theme**

***Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world. Harriet Tubman***

# Wall High School Graduation 2017

## Sirchio

Graduates, Please be seated.

Good Evening. Mrs. Dyer, distinguished guests, parents, friends and family, and most of all, the senior class.

It is an honor and privilege to welcome all of you to the Wall High School 2017 Commencement Ceremony.

I would like to begin tonight's program by introducing an exceptional young man who has made a significant impact on Wall High School, specifically in our NNDCC Program.

It is with great pleasure that I introduce Zachary Lorch who will be attending Indiana University in the Fall and will lead us in the salute to our nation's flag.

**Zachary Lorch says:**

**Please stand for the flag salute and remain standing for the singing of our National Anthem.**

- *I Pledge Allegiance to the flag.....*

*(Zac reads the Pledge of Allegiance)*

- *Chorus sings The National Anthem*

After the singing of the national anthem has concluded...

***Zachary SAYS:***

**PLEASE BE SEATED.**

## **Choral Presentation**

### **Sirchio**

Thank you Zachory.

Our choir will be introduced by Ryan Newsome. Ryan is an inquisitive and skilled young man. He is passionate about music and is an excellent vocalist. He has shared his talent through several school performances during his time at Wall. He holds himself to a high standard and is intrinsically motivated. Ryan has demonstrated that he truly enjoys the learning process and it is fitting that he will study music education at Westminster Choir College in the fall. Please draw your attention to the Chorus and welcome Ryan and the Chorus.

Choral Presentation:

(Song -“Man In The Mirror”)

Good evening, ladies and gentleman. For the Class of 2017’s graduation ceremony, the Wall High School Chorus wanted to perform a song that brought out a lot of the values from the theme this year. We wanted to sing about strength, determination, and passion, and how they reside in each and every one of us sitting here today, and we couldn’t think of a better song than Michael Jackson’s “Man in the Mirror”. We want you all to know that you have the power to change the world one bit at a time, and this change all starts with you. When you look into the mirror, know that the person staring back at you can shape the world as they see fit. With that being said, this one goes out to all the dreamers in the crowd. I hope you all will enjoy our song, and I hope that the graduating class of 2017 never stops chasing their dreams.

## **Introductions**

### **Sirchio**

A sincere thank you goes out to Ryan and our students in the Choir, under the direction of Mrs. Ellen Hollander, for that outstanding performance.

Next, I would like to recognize the distinguished members of the school district and our community who are here with us this evening and through their continued efforts, create the support system necessary for our students to flourish. As I call your name, please stand to be recognized. If I could ask the audience to hold your applause until all dignitaries are called.

Superintendent of Schools, Mrs. Cheryl Dyer

- President of the Board of Education, Mrs. Allison Connolly.
- Vice President of the Board of Education, Mrs. Robin Zawodniak

Board of Education Members:

Mr. Ralph Addonizio

Mr. Ernest Bongiovanni

Mr. Eric Brophy

Mrs. Robin Lynch

Mr. Michael McArthur

Mrs. Dori Molloy

The Mayor of Wall Township, Mr. Nick DiRocco

Our District Administration:

Principal of Allenwood School, Dr. Erin O'Connell

Principal of Central School, Mrs. Jill Antonello

Principal of West Belmar School, Mr. Anthony Abeal

Principal of Wall Intermediate School, Mrs. Erin  
Embon

Assistant Principal Wall Intermediate School, Ms.  
Tiffany Steiner

Assistant Principal Wall Intermediate School, Mr. John  
Pagano

Director of Special Education: Mrs. Carol Duffy

Intermediate Supervisor: Dr. Ken Kunz



Elementary Special Education Supervisor: Mrs. Monica  
Butler

Elementary Supervisor: Mrs. Rachel Lella

Elementary Supervisor: Mrs. Cathy Brenner

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the  
Wall High School Administrative Team that join us on  
the dais for their dedication and commitment to the  
students at Wall High School:

Assistant Principal, Mr. Kevin Davis

Assistant Principal, Mrs. Kristen Scott

Director of Guidance, Mrs. Katie Misa

Director of Athletics, Mr. Tom Ridoux

STEM Supervisor: Mrs. Laura Kurmin

Humanities Supervisor: Dr. Tracy Skinner

Special Education Supervisor: Dr. Nancy Samaha

I would also like to recognize two of our dedicated teachers for serving as class advisors for the senior class.

Thank you, Mrs. Colleen Wisher and Mr. Mike Juska.

## **Welcome Address Introduction**

### **Sirchio**

It is with great honor I introduce to you, Cailyn Kiewe to deliver tonight's Welcome Address. Cailyn Kiewe is a wonderful young woman with a big personality.

Evidence of Cailyn's reputation and leadership ability can be found in her role as the student representative to the Board of Education among numerous other positions she holds in various school organizations. She generously offers her time to help improve the school community. She has been a positive force here and I am confident that this will continue wherever she goes.

Cailyn plans to study Food Marketing and Communications at St. Joseph's University in the fall.

# Welcome Address

## Cailyn Kiewe

Class of 2017, congratulations, you made it. This day, this moment in time that has always seemed so far away, has finally arrived. It's bittersweet, this moment. Graduation. A formal transition from childhood to adulthood. It is a time to reflect on the years you've had and prepare for the years ahead of you. A time to take all the knowledge you've been given and the lessons you've learned and carry them forward into the future. We're all about to embark on a brand-new journey. Some of us are ready and excited to start a new or if you're like me, you've been dreading this since the first grade. Whether you are staying close or journeying across the country, your lives are about to change drastically. Change is hard, as we are creatures of habit. We like our same spot in the senior lot every day and our same locker every year. The best way

to embrace this new change in our life is to carry forward our lessons from the past into the future.

My time at Wall High School has taught me 2 very important lessons. The first is to learn from your mistakes. It seems like we've heard this quote every single day since kindergarten. But it's true. From the little things like, learning not to get chipotle 10 minutes before practice or not rolling up to school at 7:18 and expecting to get a spot, to big things like what we want to do with the rest of our lives or where we want to go to college. Of course before we learned this, we had to make these mistakes for ourselves. We all fail, but it does not matter how many times you fall, it is how many times you are able to pick yourself back up again.

My second lesson is quite possibly the most important of all - never forget where you came from. It is on this very field where we started and now end our high school careers. Four years ago we

sat on this exact field about to graduate 8th grade, feeling the same way as we do today. Some were feeling nervous and sad while others were extremely excited. But over the course of four years, this place has developed into our home. From late night practices, to dress rehearsals, to pep week, to state championships. We all have spent countless hours here doing what we love. Though we will walk off this field as Wall High School alumni, this place will always hold a special place inside our hearts.

Graduates, I ask you right now please look into the stands. You see your parents, grandparents, siblings, friends, aunts, uncles, cousins and so many other people who have supported you along the way. They stayed with you in late nights and early mornings, and they gave you a shoulder to cry on. They cheered you on in your best and worst moments. Without them, you may not have made it here today. I now ask you to look in the left and right

of your aisles and to the deis. You see teachers and administrators who have given you all the knowledge and advice they could to ensure you a great future. They care about you both as students, and as people. They've gone above and beyond to get you to where you are today. And now graduates, I ask you to look around you. You see your classmates, your friends, your teammates and so many other people who make the class of 2017 so special. They have all been a part of your lives in some way or another.

Appreciate them. These are the kids you grew up with.

No matter where you go in your lives, you will always have the memories from these last years together. Through all of the laughing, crying, yelling, celebrating and everything in between, always remember that one thing remained constant: Wall High School. As they say in High School Musical “we truly are all in this together”. Thank you and congratulations class of 2017.

## **Presentation of Academic Award Medals**

### **Sirchio**

Thank you Cailyn.

As part of the Wall High School tradition, we recognize the Top 10 students in the graduating class and award them with academic medals. Receiving one signifies a huge accomplishment when you consider the academic rigor of course offerings at Wall High School and our level of competition among the student body. Our students have distinguished themselves when compared with other students throughout the State. These students will, in fact, be attending some of the finest institutions in the country next year.



Mr. Kevin Davis and Mrs. Kristen Scott will assist me in presenting these awards. Please hold your applause until all 10 students have been recognized.

I will be calling them to the podium in descending order.

**Emily Surgent (10)**

**Jessica Ridley (9)**

**Andrea Capone (8)**

**Kristin Carbin (7)**

**Colleen Kelly (6)**

**Olivia O'Sullivan (5)**

**Shannon Foley (4)**

**Kristen Swaun (3)**

**Bridget Foley (2)**

**Jeremy Ridley (1)**

Please help me congratulate these outstanding students with a round of applause.

## Announcement of Senior Awards

### Sirchio

I would like to introduce an exceptional member of the Senior Class, who will be acknowledging the students who have received either an honor or a scholarship this past year. Carley Layton is a bright young woman who is well liked by our faculty and her peers. She is a team player and has a healthy competitive spirit. She appreciates the opportunities Wall High School has afforded her and she leads by example. She is enthusiastic about her education and plans to continue being a positive influence as she heads off to study Social Work at Brookdale Community College where she will also be playing softball.

## **Senior Awards Statement**

### **Carley Layton**

To the students of Wall High School Class of 2017, it sure has been a ride. I would not be the person I am today without every single person sitting in front of me and I will cherish all the beautiful memories we have made. We could not have finished this journey without the help and support from so many at people at Wall High School. I know as a class we are ready to take on the world. Four years ago we came to Wall High School as dreamers, but now we are able to take that dream, leap into life and create and conquer our own new world. With so much love and belief in this community, this school and in this class, it's almost impossible to not succeed.

Here today, there are many graduates who have received scholarships not only from the colleges they will attend, but also from local community groups.

This year, these scholarships total approximately 3.5 million dollars.

These seniors were recognized for their academic, artistic, and extracurricular accomplishments at our awards Dinner held on June 1st . We would like to ask all those graduates to stand and be recognized for their achievements one more time.

Please be seated.

## **Valedictorian Introduction**

### **Sirchio**

Thank you Carly.

I take great pride in introducing our next speaker, the valedictorian of the Class of 2017; Jeremy Ridley.

Throughout his fours at Wall High School Jeremy has displayed true character and leadership in Student Government, National Honor Society, Latin National Honor Society and as member of our first Graduating class from the Pre-Engineering Academy while also being honored as an Eagle Scout through Boys Scouts of America. His competitive drive placed him on our Varsity Boys Tennis Team, Mock Trial Team and Science Competition team, while holding various roles

in Volunteer and Community services. Without any questions, his Academic achievements speak loud as Jeremy, leads the class of 2017 as its Valedictorian.

He will be attending Georgetown University next fall.

He plans on majoring in Chemical Engineering with a minor in Mathematics.

# Valedictory Address by Student

## Jeremy Ridley

Good evening graduates. Today marks the conclusion of one journey and the beginning of another, of moving on from one dream to the next. Let's pause this evening to thank our parents and families, our teachers and administrators, and the Wall Township community—for their continued support, their time, and their belief in our potential.

Everyone sitting in this audience has some sort of dream. Some dreams start as early as kindergarten, inspired by teachers like Mrs. Riccelli or Mrs. Kraus. Other dreams aren't realized until high school. These dreams we conjure vary from person to person – it could be attending a four-year university, enlisting in the military, going to trade school, or simply just figuring out what to do with the rest of one's life. But one thing is certain: across the country this week there

are thousands more ceremonies just like this one, with other young people in caps and gowns, other families in the bleachers, and other hopes and dreams in the hearts of the graduates. So how will this one be different? How will our choices tonight and beyond contribute to who we become tomorrow? How will we, the Wall High School Class of 2017, make our mark? Well, if you list our class's accomplishments, it is pretty clear that we have already begun. We have a Group III Girls Soccer Co-Championship, a football championship, and a boy's golf championship, to name a few. We have classmates whose art is hanging up in Washington, DC, and classmates who have played in symphonies. We have students attending Stanford and the University of Pennsylvania. And we FINALLY won hall decorating. All of these achievements are significant, pretty remarkable for just one year. Give yourselves a round of applause! Still—an even bigger question remains: how will we make our mark in the future?



Unfortunately, I don't have an automatic answer to that question. I don't know what we will accomplish as a generation, or as individuals. I don't know what decisions we will make, what directions we will take, and what results will come out of all of it. But I do know this: All too often when people our age have an idea, a mission, or goal—when they dream—they are shut down by those around them, by people who tell them their ideas won't work. And all too often these people who do not believe in us, who tell us “no”, too often these people are adults. And these adults are in-charge, because they've grown-up, because, as they tell us, they've “seen the world.” After a certain age, apparently you gain this power to tell when a young person's idea is less innovative-researcher and more mad-scientist. These folks are convinced that what we are dreaming of, and hoping for, is all merely that: a dream. Intangible and unattainable. They dismiss our ambitions and we, disappointed, move onto something else. Because they're older, they must be right. Right?

Well, it doesn't always have to be that way. If you're ever confronted with a situation like this one, consider the wise words of Harriet Tubman: "Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars, to change the world." We should look to these words as an example to live by. No matter the doubt of others, of those who want you to fail and to fall, just look inside yourself. All dreams start with a spark, a flame. I urge you, don't let that flame go out. Don't let your dreams be extinguished. Babe Ruth struck out 1,330 times on his way to hitting a record setting 714 home runs. Thomas Edison discovered 1,800 ways to incorrectly make a lightbulb before he invented one that worked effectively. These individuals did not let their failures get in the way of their dreams. They had the patience to stay the course and keep at it until they reached their goal. They had passion, loved what they were doing, and wanted to change the world. And of course they had strength. They didn't back

down in the face of adversity and trouble. They embraced the words of Harriet Tubman, and the trees of their dreams bore a bountiful fruit.

So I urge you, Class of 2017, keep making your mark. Whenever someone tries to hold you back, know that within you lies the power to do great things. In the end, it doesn't matter where you go, or even what you do, but what you make of it. So keep dreaming. It's the only surefire way to change this world. For the better! Thank you.

## **Sirchio**

Thank you, Jeremy.

I would like to present you with this plaque that acknowledges your success at Wall High School and your participation in tonight's commencement ceremony.

The plaque reads: Jeremy Ridley, Valedictorian

## **Senior Class Presentation of Gift**

### **Sirchio**

Each year the graduating class presents our school with a gift. This gift signifies the appreciation and gratitude that the students feel toward the Wall Township School District and more specifically Wall High School.

Presenting the gift are two exceptional students. Andrea Capone who will be attending The University of Southern California (USC) and will be majoring in Communications and Eamon Fogler who will be continuing his education at North Carolina State University.

## Presentation of Gift Speech by Student(s)

### Andrea Capone

Over the past four years Wall High School has presented us with every possible opportunity to succeed. Whether it is in the classroom, on the playing field or in one of the countless clubs and activities going on around school, we all have experienced so much in preparation for the road ahead. Without the help of all the teachers, coaches, administrators and of course our class advisors Mrs. Wisher and Mr. Juska, we would still be in the same position we were when we first started.... lost.

## **Eamon Fogler**

But through it all with the guidance of these great people, we are now noticing how special these years are and will be forever. To keep such a tradition of excellence and pride among our school and community, our senior class of 2017 would like to present Wall High School with picnic tables inscribed - Wall High School - Class of 2017 that will be enjoyed in the courtyard at the high school to commemorate our class. Thank you.

## **Salutatory Address Introduction**

**Sirchio:** Thank you Andrea and Eamon.

It is my pleasure to introduce our next speaker who has earned the honor of salutatorian of the Class of 2017.

Throughout her four years at Wall High School, Bridget Foley has attained the level of a high honor roll student and membership to the *National Honor Society* and the *Latin Honor Society*. She received *Summa Cum Laude* honors recognition by earning a top score on the National Latin Exam. She has been successful in completing many honors, advanced placement and dual enrollment college courses. Bridget enjoys all subject areas but is especially interested in the area of business. She is a student member of the *Wall Business and*



*Finance Academy* and DECA participant. She is a vigorous leader in the Interact Club, SADD and Student Council. In addition, Bridget is a dedicated sports enthusiast for Wall High School while managing the boys' basketball team and is a community volunteer with a special focus at the West Belmar Elementary School. Bridget is an outstanding student, a genuine leader and an amazing young woman.

Bridget will be attending Boston College in the fall 2017. Her plans are to major in Business Administration and to one day be CEO of a Fortune 500 Company.

Please join me in welcoming Bridget Foley.

## Salutatory Address by Student

### Bridget Foley

Good evening family, friends, faculty, and my fellow graduates. This ceremony is held in our honor, but first I want to take a minute, on behalf of myself and my classmates, to thank everyone who helped get us here. I wish I could say that everything in high school was easy, but I'd be lying if I said it hadn't included some blood, sweat, and a lot of tears. My family and friends have stood by me through it all, even when I was at my worst. I would not have made it to where I am today, on this podium, without the support of those closest to me and this entire community.

High school was much more than shuffling from class to class. I know it's cliché but we're not going to look back on these years and remember the late nights we stayed up studying; we're going to remember the people we once knew. The people who shaped us and

helped us grow. So thank you to these people: parents, teachers, coaches, custodians, siblings and friends. Thank you for expecting much of us and reminding us of our potential. You never doubted our capabilities. Everyone in the class of 2017 is who they are today because of the indispensable efforts you invested in us. Our graduation theme entailed the chasing of dreams, which is fitting because all of you instilled in us the self-confidence needed to make that prospect possible. We reaped what all of you sowed for us-- our success is your success.

An all too common phrase associated with high school is that these will be the best four years of our lives. An aspect of truth does resonate with this statement because Wall High School has provided us with memories that will last a lifetime, but I refuse to believe it fully. There have been some good times, and some bad times, but better times await us. This past year alone, the full aptitude of this class has been illuminated-- whether it be through academic accolades,

state championships or shore conference titles. This class is destined for greatness-- greatness that has already begun to bud-- and I know that you will all continue to shock the world with your talent and hardwork. 2017 will be remembered as the year Wall regained its preeminence. We set the bar high, challenging and daring future classes to set it even higher.

The thought of giving advice in my speech did not sit entirely right with me. Many people can give better advice: people who are older and wiser, more educated and more experienced. So, I won't bore you with the ruminations of an eighteen year old who knows just as little about what's out there as the next. I could give some aesthetically pleasing words of wisdom, but frankly, we don't need it. It is by no mere accident or coincidence that our class has accomplished remarkable things. It has been the result of our ambition to do our personal best; to persist, persevere and perfect ourselves; to work as individuals and as a team. If our

successes are any indicators of what we will accomplish in the future, then the future looks bright.

We didn't have a say in where we grew up, none of us chose to live in Wall Township. That being said, I am grateful to have gotten the chance to know all of you. There are a lot of people I wish I had been closer with, and I regret that. On the other hand, there are other people I know a little too much about, and I regret that as well. As we enter the "real world", we now have a say and a sense of control over our lives. We can choose what we want to do and where we want to go. And it's scary because we face so many uncertainties in the immediate and distant future, but I have no doubt in my mind that you will find your way. We leave here with all the knowledge we've gathered in these halls, or in avoiding them. Put it to good use, but don't rely solely on it. Add to it. Apply it. Share it. Use it to make a difference and, above all, pay it forward.

Today is no small feat. Today, our many hours of hard work have finally paid off. It perhaps is the most

significant and life altering milestone most of us can claim to this day. Never hesitate to recognize how proud each and every person here today is of your personal commitment.

Four years ago you could have told me I would be sad at my graduation and I would have laughed at you. Right up until that last minute before the final bell rung at 2:02, high school felt like an eternity. And then the bell rung, and it was over. Just like that. All ready to take on the world. As much as I never thought I would look back on my years at Wall High School and remember only the good times-- and as hard as it is for me to admit-- I think I will. I'm going to miss you all a lot. We have been together from the very beginning. I'm super proud of the people we have all become, and we honestly couldn't have done it without each other. Now as I look out, I see an amazing group of young adults, still rowdy as ever, but even more confident and sure of ourselves. We did it guys. Every single one of us. So

best of luck in life to the class of 2017, and one last time-- let's make it a great day to be a knight.

## Sirchio

Thank you, Bridget.

I would like to present you with this plaque that acknowledges your success at Wall High School and your participation in tonight's commencement ceremony.

The plaque reads: Bridget Foley, Salutatorian.



## **Class Advisor Presentation**

### **Sirchio**

At this time, I would like to ask Jane Stout to join me at the podium.

Jane Stout is a charismatic young lady with a contagious positive spirit. She embodies a passion for the artistic craft of photography, and can frequently be seen capturing pictures of our students' achievements and memorable milestones in the classroom, at sporting events, and at award ceremonies. Jane' has an artistic eye behind the camera, and has been recognized for her craft at the local and county levels. Jane's most proud accomplishment is when she was

honored to showcase her work for the Monmouth County Festival of Arts as the youngest participator in the history of the event! With these accomplishments, Jane plans to bring her craft and further develop her passion to New York City this Fall. Jane will be attending Pace University as an Art major with a concentration in Photography.

## **Class Advisor Recognition Jane Stout**

I would like to thank our class advisors Mrs. Wisher and Mr. Juska for the endless support you have given us over the years that helped us throughout high school and led us to this stage today. Your hard work and persistence with our class has provided us with cherished memories. Your patience to continuously push back timelines and accommodate students allowed more of us to attend all of our unforgettable senior activities. Many students in the class wanted me to highlight the Disney trip when our advisors along with Ms. Sirchio and Mrs. Scott worked countless hours to change our flight plan when NJ was entering into a state of emergency. Instead you jumped on a bus with us the day before we were supposed to leave and the students were enjoying the sunshine in the pool hours before they were originally supposed to land.

On behalf of the senior class, we would like to present you with a plaque to remember how much you are appreciated. The plaque reads 2017 Class Advisors - thanks for your support and dedication.

## **Sirchio**

Thank you, Jane.

# **Ms. Sirchio's Presentation of the Class of 2017**

## Introduction of Superintendent

### Sirchio

It is my honor to introduce the Superintendent of the Wall Township Schools, Mrs. Cheryl Dyer.

**Mrs. Dyer, I present you the candidates for Graduation, The Wall High School Class of 2017.**

A Message from Mrs. Dyer, Superintendent:

Good evening graduates and all members of the Wall Township Public Schools Community. It is indeed a great day to be a Knight! I'm happy to be here this evening to celebrate this important milestone with you and share some thoughts on this auspicious occasion.

I think the theme of this years' graduation is perfect. As Harriet Tubman said, "Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world."

It immediately reminded me of this quote from Jack Kerouac that was used by Apple Computer in 1997, "Here's to the crazy ones. The misfits. The rebels. The trouble-makers. The round pegs in the square holes. The ones who see things differently. They're not fond of rules, and they have no respect for the status-quo. You can quote them, disagree with them, glorify, or vilify them. But the only thing you can't do is ignore them. Because they change things. They push the human race forward. And while some may see them as the crazy ones, we see genius. Because the people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world, are the ones who do."

Each and every one of you has the potential to change the world in which you live. Your actions, reactions, decisions, and indecisions have

a ripple effect on the present and the future and set the wheels of change in motion. I challenge you to think differently and to push the human race forward. I congratulate you on your accomplishments and celebrate your successes with you and your families.

As Superintendent of the Wall Township Public Schools, I accept Ms. Sirchio's recommendation that all students seated before us have met the requirements for High School Graduation as specified by the Wall Township Board of Education and the Great State of New Jersey and I certify that they are eligible to receive diplomas.

Ladies and gentlemen, I proudly present to you the graduating class of 2017!



## Presentation of Graduates

### Sirchio

Thank you Mrs. Dyer.

I would now like to invite the Senior Class Advisors Mrs. Colleen Wisher and Mr. Michael Juska to come up to the podium and read the names of our graduates.

If I could ask, please hold your applause until all the names have been read. Thank you.

Seniors, Prepare for Graduation.



# Reading of Names

Wisher/Juska

## **Introduction to Farewell Address**

### **Sirchio**

I would be remiss if I failed to thank the NNDCC and Band members who have played an important role in tonight's ceremony. Thank you for all your efforts.

Our farewell address will be delivered by Kirsten Hatch. Kirsten is an independent, kind and creative young lady. Since entering high school Kirsten jumped into any and all chances to perform. She has performed in chorus and choral ensembles and has participated in every school play and musical since freshman year. Her favorite theatrical experience was the lead role she played in *You Can't Take It with You*.

Over the past couple years Kirsten has grown from a participator to a leader. As a member of the Marching Band Flag Team she has helped choreograph parts of the half-time routines and encouraged fellow teammates to perform a flag routine that she created. For the

Thespian Society she again showed her leadership by being the only member that wrote an original play. Additionally, she is a member of the Literary Club, the GSA, and the Songwriting Club. Kirsten will be taking her talent to Rowan University next year where she will major in Advertising. Please welcome Kirsten Hatch.

## Farewell Address

### Kirsten Hatch

Now that our days at Wall High School are coming to a close, we all must think about our futures. Some of us are staying close to home, and others are going across the country, and still others plan on pushing their boundaries even farther than that. To each and everyone of you, I ask only one thing: dream. Dream of tomorrow, and dream of the next day, and dream of the days and weeks and years that come after that. Dream about what might come next, and then, make it happen. Our dreams can stretch across oceans or continents, or even stay as small as the close-knit suburban town you came from, but even small dreams have the power to change each of our own worlds. We need not dream about the best thing the world will ever know, only the *next* thing our worlds will know. As Harriet Tubman once said:

***“Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world.”***

With that being said, just by sitting here today, you have all proven that you have the ability to dream. Look at yourselves, you were determined to make it to graduation day, and congratulations, you did it.

Throughout your four years here, you reached for this one last shining moment in your high school career.

Whether it was having the strength to get up at six in the morning everyday, or the patience to sit through eighty four minute periods, or tests that felt like they would never end, you had the passion to learn, and make it to today. This is the day that our worlds begin to change forever. When we leave here, we will no longer be the Senior class of Wall High School, we will be young adults ready to face and maybe even change

the world. Our days at Wall High School have come to a close, and now, before the dawn of our futures, we all have a chance to rest for a little while. And with those futures in mind, I wish you all sweet dreams.



## **Tassel Ceremony**

### **Sirchio**

Thank you Kirsten.

At this time I would like to invite the senior class president, Jill Krikorian to the podium to lead the class of 2017 through the transferring of the tassels.

### **Jill Krikorian**

Class of 2017, will you please stand. Move your tassel from the right to the left. Congratulations, you are now graduates.

## **Recessional**

### **Sirchio**

Tonight the class of 2017 will continue the cap-toss tradition at Wall High School in the South Endzone. The class will gather after the recessional for the cap-toss ritual, which will be captured, on film. All parents are asked to direct your attention to the South Endzone. This concludes our graduation ceremony. Thank you for coming and congratulations to the class of 2017.

Please begin the recessional march.....(Band Plays Music)

## Move to this for weather issues:

If I could have everyone's attention: it appears that Mother Nature has a different plan for today's ceremony. Due to the (use one):

-Thunder

-Rain

-Thunderstorm that is indicated on radar that will soon be impacting us

we will moving the remaining portion of the ceremony to our North Gym. Please note that only those with tickets will be allowed in the gym. All other guests will be directed to our Auditorium where the rest of the ceremony will be simulcast. The graduates are asked to follow Mr. Higham/Davis at this time All other guests can enter the building via entrance #22 which is located near the tennis courts. Everyone should please clear the stadium area at this time. Thank you.