

Good morning. My name is Matthew Tarby, and it is my honor to stand here as your salutatorian. I want to welcome my fellow classmates, teachers, school administration, and our families to the graduation of the class of 2020. I want to also take a minute to recognize that while many people could not be here today that wanted to share this day with us, we have to remember that they are proud of all that we have accomplished and are cheering us on.

I know this is not how we expected our senior year to end, but at the end of the day, no one can take away from us the memories that we have made with one another here at Bishop Grimes. From sectional championships, to performing arts shows, to just sharing laughs at the lunch table with each other - these are the memories we will carry with us for the rest of our lives. While this pandemic took so many events away from our class, we need to focus on those memories and those friendships. When I think back to when we began here at Bishop Grimes, we came from so many different backgrounds and so many different schools, and yet we came together to become one family. We cheered each other on, supported each other through difficult times, celebrated our successes, and picked each other up when we failed. But we always did it together.

On a personal level, one lasting memory I will always take with me from my years at Bishop Grimes is from when I tore my ACL in my sophomore year. While I thought it was something that I would never come back from, it was the Bishop Grimes community that reminded me of what I needed to do to move forward to where I stand before you today. My teachers reminded me to always keep my faith in God and supported me to

make sure I was able to keep up with my classes. And my friends were there with me from the minute I got hurt to the minute I got cleared to return to play again. They picked me up when I was feeling down, helped me when I couldn't do simple things like carry my stuff to classes, and included me when I was going through physical therapy to be a part of everything. Thank you to you all. As I said before, we did it together.

I would also like to thank everyone at Bishop Grimes for all they did to make the end of the school year as memorable as they could despite the circumstances including today's graduation.

So today, join me in celebrating all that we've done at Bishop Grimes and celebrating the people who helped us achieve our goals and prepared us for the future. Even a pandemic couldn't stop us.