

Good afternoon to everyone that has been able to make it to this graduation ceremony. I know this year has unfortunately not panned out to be what we had all hoped for, but this quarantine has given me time to reflect on the past 6 years and the memories that we have been able to make over the years here at Bishop Grimes. But, first, let me tell you a little bit about myself.

In case you didn't know already, my name is Colby Evans, but some nicknames I have been known by over the years include "Chip", "Cob", or "Cobble." Growing up, most of my life was based around Bishop Grimes. Both of my parents graduated from Grimes, one of my older brothers graduated from Grimes, and my other two brothers attended Grimes, but eventually transferred out before they graduated. So, growing up, Grimes was about all I knew as far as high schools. Once I graduated from sixth grade, it was an obvious choice for me to take my talents down to South Beach and join the big three with LeBron, D-Wade, and Chris Bosh. After four years and only two rings, I eventually ended up here at Bishop Grimes. My father was also the varsity boys' basketball coach here at Grimes from 2001 up until 2012. I was at my first Bishop Grimes basketball game at about a week old, but I couldn't tell you much about that game if I'm being honest. As I got older, I eventually became one of the waterboys for my dad on the varsity boys' basketball team. When one of my father's assistant coaches, Mr. Lobello, found out about me being the valedictorian this year, he mentioned quite a funny story looking back. I was in about first grade at the time, and Mr. Lobello said that he was in the middle of giving a speech to the team, when he said "It's going to be funner." That's when I then got his attention and I told him "Mr. Lobello, I think it's 'more fun.'" He said that that was when he knew that I was going to be something special. But, that's enough about me, because I came here to talk about our amazing class of graduates of 2020.

The class of 2020 has shown ourselves to be a hardworking group of individuals who have managed to persevere through changes and throughout any unforeseen circumstances that come our way. When we aren't spending our days stuck inside of our homes, we have proven to be able to adapt and overcome any obstacles that have come across in our paths. In just over 6 years at Grimes, we have seen 5 different principals lead our school. We have seen the departure and arrival of many different faculty members over our 6 years here at Grimes. We have also managed to rewrite history during our time here, including winning the first ever boys' soccer sectional title for Bishop Grimes this past fall. A majority of our students have been here since 9th grade or before, and almost all of those students have spent all 6 years of high school at Bishop Grimes, so our graduating class is quite accustomed to the atmosphere of the school. I believe that this only cracks the surface of what our graduating class has to offer as people as we embark on new journeys and the future of our lives.

Our times here have been filled with plenty of great memories, even if we didn't believe that certain moments would have that much value to us now. When I was looking for quotes that would be relevant to my speech today, I found a quote from Dr. Seuss that I really like that gives meaning to this. His quote was "Sometimes you will never know the value of a moment, until it becomes a memory." We have made all kinds of memories; whether it's the friends that you've

been able to make over the years and the memories you've been able to make with them, whether you've been able to be a part of a team atmosphere, like being on a sports team or being a part of one of the school musicals or being a member of our band or chorus groups, or whether it's been some special event or moment that has happened in our time here. We've all been able to make memories of some kind during our years here at Bishop Grimes, and looking back at these memories really highlights how great our years here with each other have been

There has always been a quote that I've tried to live my life by, and despite it being a very well-known and simplistic quote, I still feel it can be a quite inspiring message. In the words of the late great Jimmy Valvano, "Don't give up. Don't ever give up." Now, Jimmy Valvano was the head men's basketball coach of the North Carolina State Wolf Pack that won the 1983 NCAA national championship. These words were a part of his inspirational 1993 ESPYs speech weeks before his unfortunate passing due to cancer. The empowering phrase would be the cornerstone motto of the Jimmy V foundation for cancer research. I wanted to spread this message to my fellow graduates today because of how you can apply it to any situation in your life. Whenever you seem to be struggling in life, no matter what it is, perseverance, not giving up, the desire to keep working hard and fighting to overcome this obstacle, is what truly inspires me to keep working hard every day, and I hope that it can do the same for all of you as well.

I want to say thank you to Mrs. Brillante, Mr. Kinne, and all of our administration from this year. Thank you to all of the teachers who have taught us and guided us on our paths so that we can further our education. I also would like to thank the remainder of the faculty and staff at Bishop Grimes who have helped us in our time here at this school. I especially would like to thank all of the parents and families of our graduates who have supported and cared for all of us over the years, we truly could not have done it without you. To all of my fellow graduates and friends here at Grimes: I appreciate all of you greatly, and I hope you all are able to be successful in whatever you desire to do in your lives. I've made some great memories throughout my time at Grimes, and I'm glad to be able to look back and remember all of them.... Cobble but,

Commented [1]: Coby, your speech is really well-done. Your anecdotes are wonderful, and I value the advice and sentiments you share with your classmates. Thank you for the care and attention to the details you put into it. I'm so proud of you, Colby.