

Good evening faculty, school board members, family and friends. My name is Claire Woolley and as class president it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 114th Commencement Ceremony of Ephrata High School class of 2009. Sitting in these chairs before you is a very unique group of students. In years to come we will all do remarkable things, I know this because of the success this class has had the past four years. Our class motto reads, “We all take different paths in life, but no matter where we go, we take a little piece of each other everywhere.”

After tonight we will all start down new paths, but before we do, I want us to remember the paths we’ve already taken. Athletically, our class has had section, district, and league champions. We’ve competed at regional and state levels. Our academic accomplishments have lead us to national science fairs, national writing awards, and national merit scholarships. The class of 2009 also ‘shook things up’ in the musical department, and we certainly set a high bar for classes to come. As we take this time to reminisce, would you all please join me in a moment of silence for our classmates, family members, and friends who are no longer with us. (pause) All of the success we have had could not have been possible without the help and guidance of our teachers, coaches, and parents. I know we could say thank you a hundred times or more, but it still wouldn’t be enough to show our gratitude for all the time and commitment you’ve put into making our high school years memorable and somewhat painless. To my parents, I don’t even have words to describe how great you both have been. I couldn’t ask for better role models. Jan and I are truly blessed to have you as our parents. At this time I will kindly ask for *all* the parents of 2009 graduates to stand and be recognized.

(Pause – ovation)

Thank you. As we all take our different paths, a piece of Ephrata High School will always be with us and we will forever be the class of 2009. To my classmates, I wish you all the success in the world. Remember, following paths of others is always safe, but don’t be afraid to blaze your own.