

Good morning, everyone. On behalf of the St.X Class of 2016, I would like to welcome all family, friends, faculty, alumni, and administration. It is my great honor to address the Class of 2016 for one final time.

To my fellow seniors, the last four years at Saint X have culminated in this one single moment: The moment we last gather together as a class to not only celebrate what we have accomplished, but also to reflect on the four years we have spent together. I remember sitting in my first class as an awkward freshman with Mr. Gruneisn. The first thing he said to us was these four years at Saint X will be the quickest of your life. I don't know if anyone believed him; but I can tell you now we all learned a very important lesson that day; Mr Gruneisn is never wrong.

I now realize that spending four years at St.X represents a pathway of endless opportunities, of dreams being seized, and of milestones being reached.....all of which the Class of 2016 accomplished.

As freshmen, we experienced being the first class with iPads, the rage cage for our first high school football game, our first homecoming, our first taste of exams, our first girlfriend.....our second girlfriend. These things seem so ordinary, but at St. X they're the catalyst for the greatest high school tradition in America. These little things are the building blocks of each Tiger. As Dr. Sangalli says, at St.X, we find the extraordinary in the ordinary in every aspect of the school.

Don't believe me? I have proof!

In athletics, it's Connor McKim and the basketball team having one of the most incredible seasons in Saint X history. It's the golf team, winning back-to-back State Championships while breaking the state record along the way. It's Justin Harp, working with sports medicine and making sure all the athletes are taken care of.

In Academics, it's Daniel Ryan and Thomas Ostertag achieving the perfect score on the ACT. It's our 8 national merit finalists. It's Noah Poppum and PJ Loheide being so advanced in math that we had to make a class just for them.

In the Arts, it's Mark Vogt, Kyle Fitzgerald and the entire MAV team for pursuing their dreams in shooting some impressive movies. It's Xander Eisert being selected to sing in the Kentucky All-State choir. It's Spencer Davis painting and drawing some of the most creative things St.X has seen.

In service, it's Cole Schumann, Ahmad Turki, Phillip Freeman, and Oliver Hirn for giving a part of themselves for the benefit of others. It's Clark Ulmer, Corey Chitwood and the entire Belize mission team who went this past summer to build a house for a family in need.

Within the school, it's Peyton Byrne and Nick Eimers for making their presence known at almost every single St. X event. It's Mason Wolford attempting to wear his Rocky Balboa costume to the ACT. It's Cole Bollinger

writing countless articles on athletic teams for WSTX. And it's the people who sit before me now. The most important aspect of St.X are the students who walk the halls.

To all of you people, what you do everyday is just a part of who you are. But it's the things that each person contributes to Saint X that makes the Class of 2016 so extraordinary. And during our time here, we were able to experience a true sense of belonging, whether it was on the field, on the stage, or in the classroom. Along the way, we met extraordinary classmates who turned into friends who transformed into brothers.

The brothers we have met here have been with us for every step of our journey, including the highs such as Tiger Blast, our famous Patriotic Night Rage Cages, State Championships, and our Senior Prom. But they've also been there for us during our lows: losing a game, troubles at home, or the loss of a loved one. When I lost my mother this past August, the support and love I received from my brothers and their parents was something that taught me that this wasn't just a school; this was a family. The brothers we have made during our four years here will be with us for the rest of our lives. These bonds are something only a high school like St.X can produce.

Not only have our brothers been there for us, but so have our teachers, the staff, and the administration. Every one of us can honestly say that we would not be the man we are today without you all. You have provided us with some of the best experiences of our lives. Whether it's Coach Jefferson treating every one of his students like a son, Mr. Bradshaw reminding us

every morning that school is cool and sleep is over rated, Ms. Smith being our mom away from home, or Mr. Nichols helping us to discover ourselves through Christian Awakening Retreat. The teachers allow us to feel that we have the world at our fingertips. At St.X we have the intellectual, artistic, and spiritual freedom to think, to serve, to love, and to seize our potential. Any passion or path we dream of is achievable and its because of these unique, extraordinary student-teacher relationships.

Class of 2016, this day marks the definitive end to a special chapter. As we transition today from students to alumni, we have a responsibility to carry out one of the proudest traditions in the nation. Brother Edward Driscoll once said, "Nothing that you will ever do will be as important as who you are." We have to take both the man that Saint X has shaped us into and the Xaverian values that have been instilled in us to improve the many different paths we will all travel after today. When we graduate, we are not only walking across this stage, but walking into 152 years of distinguished history. We are not only going to be united with the classes of the past, but the classes yet to come. We are the men of the St. Francis Xavier Class of 2016. We will show our gifts. We will conquer our fears. We will follow our faith. We are challenged to be extraordinary because we are.....St. X.