

Good evening, everyone. On behalf of the Saint Xavier Class of 2018 I would like to welcome all family, friends, faculty, staff, alumni, and supporters of St. X to the 146th graduation ceremony of Saint Xavier High School. It is truly my great honor to stand in front of you today, as a member of the graduating Class of 2018.

To my fellow seniors: Today we gather together for one final time. It is one final opportunity to celebrate all we have accomplished, one final chance to appreciate all those who have made it possible, and one final moment to remember our time spent together.

While today marks the end of our time as St. X students, our journey began just four short years ago. We all walked into St. X for the very first time, and stumbled into the auditorium nervous, yet at the same time excited. Mr. Espinosa made his way on stage and told us that here at St. X we stand on the shoulders of giants, and one day we would be those giants. That at St. X we are no longer boys, but men of character. That at St. X, together we ... dream, believe, and achieve. While most of us in that moment were dreaming of lunch or P.E, Mr. Espinosa laid a foundation for something truly extraordinary when he challenged us from our very first day.

Four years later, I think it is safe to say that we have dreamed, believed, and achieved truly exceeding all standards in all aspects in our tenure at Saint Xavier. We have become the giants that will hold future generations. We have become the men of

character Mr. Espinosa once told us about. We have become true tigers of St. X. And if you don't believe me, I have the evidence.

In Academics, it is Jacob Staashelm achieving a perfect score on the ACT. It is Josh Jacobs attending 3 International Science Fairs. It is our seven National Merit Finalists. It is the name St. X being known not only around the state of Kentucky, but around the Nation as a cornerstone of Academic excellence.

In athletics, it is the 25 State Championships that have been won in our 4 years at St. X. It is the Swim and Dive Team breaking the National Record with 30 consecutive state titles. It is Patrick Schafer dominating the state of Kentucky in cross country. It is the Soccer Team bringing home the programs historic 15th State Championship.

In the arts, it is Mason Doyle, Lucas Gleitz, and Logan Wright creating magic on the stage in their incredible productions. It is Nathan Whitlock capturing unbelievable photographs. It is Will Stodghill and Henry Ackerson lighting up the auditorium in the jazz band. It is Josh Sanders bringing his art to life.

In service, our Class has contributed over 35,000 hours in our local community and around the globe. It is Colin Kemper, Lucá Sanchez, Owen Freeman, and Parker Moorman waking up early on countless Saturday mornings to help those less fortunate. It is Andrew Klem and Jack Schrepferman starting a non-profit organization

to welcome new immigrants into our community. It is Sam Blincoe, Tucker Worden, and the entire Jamaican Mission Trip team spreading love, hope, and faith.

In our four years, we truly have become the giants that together have dreamed, believed and achieved. I think it is important to point out that the word “together” starts that phrase. What has made the Class of 2018 so special is that we have always been together. We have created a brotherhood that has already begun to change not only our community, but the world. From Tiger Blast, Pep-rallies, the rage cage, Senior Prom, the Pink and White Dance, to simply walking the halls; we were always together as one band of brothers. And every single individual sitting in front of me today has been a part of this brotherhood. Even if I did not mention your name, you helped to shape the Class of 2018 into one of the most promising groups of young men to walk through the halls of St. X.

However, we did not get to this point alone. To the teachers, staff, and administration, your continual support out of love, guidance filled with knowledge, and inspiration led by faith has truly been life changing. While we may have forgotten some of your academic lessons over the past four years, we will never be able to forget the memories you created. Whether it is Mr. Nichols sparking our faith and allowing us to see God in ways never imagined before in the Christian Awakening Retreats, Mrs. White trying to get our whole religion classroom to come visit her Lake House with her because she just loves us so much, or Mr. Blair giving each of us a hug with tears streaming down his face as his final class ever walked out the door. The teachers at St.

X are special not only because of their ability to spread knowledge, but because of their deep care and genuine respect for each student. Thank you teachers, staff, counselors, and administration for giving us the power to dream, the faith to believe, and the tools to achieve.

So, Class of 2018. In just a few moments, we will no longer be students, but alumni of the greatest school in the nation. However, our mission does not end today. Together, we will continue to dream of the possibilities to come and the change we can and will spark. Together, we will continue to believe in the power of humility, compassion, simplicity, trust, and zeal. Together, we will continue to achieve feats that once seemed impossible. Together, we are dreamers. Together, we are believers. Together, we are achievers. Together, we are St. X.