

Hello graduates, families, faculty, and that one person who thought it was a good idea to bring an airhorn today!

I'm so thrilled to be here speaking to you, mainly because it gives me a chance to wear this cap and gown. Reminds me of my brief career as a Gryffindor at Hogwarts... or maybe Hufflepuff, since I'm more into snacks than saving the world.

As a parent, I've been preparing for this moment for years. Or to be more accurate, I've been dragged here by a whirlwind of alarms, lunch packing, and last-minute science projects. But today isn't about my survival skills; it's about you amazing graduates!

You've climbed the mountain of academia, fought off the trolls of homework, bypassed the village of procrastination (maybe with a few visits), and finally arrived ready to take on the world or at least possibly a job.

Remember, life is filled with opportunities and also things like laundry and taxes--they never mentioned those in calculus, did they?

Keep your sense of humor, hold onto your curiosity, and whenever in doubt, ask your mom or check online--if my teenager is right, it's approximately the same thing.

Congratulations, graduates! You've made us all proud. Now go out there and do something extraordinary... or at least remember to call once in a while!

Thank you!