

## Words of Wisdom from our 2017 Valedictorians and Salutatorians

- Don't be afraid to advocate for yourself with your teachers. Talk to them - that's how you keep your grades up.
- Everyone has a screw loose somewhere; accept it, get over it, move on.
- Get support from parents, teachers, or someone you're close to.
- Do your work and try.
- Be friends with other people who have the same goals as you - it helps encourage you to keep striving for those goals if you have the motivation from your friends.
- Take the highest level of English you can. Being able to communicate clearly is what's going to get you ahead in life and when looking for a job.
- Grades aren't everything. Being involved in clubs and activities is equally as important.
- Put yourself out there and don't be afraid to try new things - you'll meet new people that way.
- Don't do what people expect. School is way more entertaining when you stand out.
- Don't procrastinate.
- Make time for yourself, your friends and your family.
- Take advantage of all the resources given to you: tutoring, homework club, etc.
- Don't be afraid to get to know people who may seem different than you - you may have more in common than you think.
- Your mental and physical well-being are more important than any homework or test.
- Don't value yourself as a person solely based on your grades.
- Being a kind person is far more important than being valedictorian.
- Enjoy yourself and have fun just not *too* much.
- Go to as many sporting events as you can - it goes by fast and you'll never have that chance again.
- Talk to everyone in your class at least once. I wish I would have talked to some people before senior year.
- Challenge yourself, because even if you don't think you can do it you'll find you're stronger and smarter than you think.
- Get involved in extracurricular activities so you can manage your time effectively.
- Don't worry too much about your grades - there are other things that matter in high school.
- Find a group of friends you can study with *and* have fun with.
- Relax, enjoy the ride, and don't be stupid.
- Popularity ends on yearbook day, respect lasts forever.
- Get involved in every way you can, do the things people tell you are impossible, and focus on having fun and making friends that will last forever.
- Transfer to PCC early college so you can graduate [high school] with an Associate's degree.
- Never underestimate what you're capable of - you might surprise yourself and do something greater than you ever anticipated.
- Branch out and meet new people from other schools. I did, and it was my favorite year ever.
- Regardless of whether you realize it or not, friends are a reflection of your inner self. Don't hang out with people who aren't really a reflection of who you are. Be honest with yourself and choose friends who you really connect with.
- Work hard, play hard...and tutor other people for money.

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- Never give up on achieving your goals.
- Don't settle into a routine. Continue to challenge yourself and take risks.
- Coffee is not a substitute for sleep.
- Never doubt yourself or your abilities because you can do anything you set your mind to.
- Procrastinating is ok, but know yourself well enough to get your work done.
- "You do you, Boo."
- Do more - whether it be curricular or extracurricular - don't settle for just passing.
- Value academic achievements just as much as personal, mental, and physical achievements.
- Every year, do at least one thing you can look back on and be really proud of.
- If you think you can try harder, you're probably not trying hard enough.
- Take ownership of your own education and decisions, ultimately no one else can do it for you.
- AP Physics is challenging...