

Our Salutatorian Address was delivered by **Andrew Thomas Grashoff, William Paxton Murphy, & Jeffrey Maxwell Tepper**

Max: Good Afternoon, Brother Ray, Father Matthew, Father Jacob, Faculty, Families, Students, and distinguished guests...Welcome, to St. Paul's One Hundred and Sixth Commencement Ceremony celebrating the graduation of the class of Twenty Seventeen. We are gathered here today to celebrate the crowning achievement of these One Hundred and Sixty-Eight brilliant, young men. This ceremony, is the culmination of our time here as students; all five years, spent learning, maturing, and preparing for life ahead, these five short years coalesce into this one moment. In it, we have an opportunity. This time should be spent savoring the myriad of emotions every one of us is experiencing right now. But this time would be lost,, if we did not use it to say, thank you, to those how matter most, to those who have given us the tools and the will, to stand where we stand today.

So allow me to begin by thanking the families. Mothers, fathers, sisters brothers, grandparents,, you,, were our primary foundation. You, are the ones who have known us since birth, and know us now, even better than we know ourselves. Growing up, you've shown us how to be magnanimous young men, your guidance has been with us every step of the way through our childhood and teenage years, and now here we are. Take a look at the product of your sacrifices, perseverance, and love.

You showed us how much you cared through big actions: like making the financial sacrifice for the sake an excellent education. But it was the little, every day sacrifices, like getting up early to make lunch, driving us to school, and to sports, and just caring about how our day was, that really showed us that you love us.

But now, we've grown up. We are all ready to move forward with our lives, going to college, eager to see what adventure comes next. Now, it's your job to step back, and watch us live the way you taught us. You all are wondering if you have raised us right, wondering if you did all you possibly could to make us ready for the world ahead. Well don't worry, you were absolutely perfect. We're ready. And for that, we all say thank you.

Andy:

I'd like to extend my dearest thanks to the faculty, staff, and Christian Brothers of Saint Paul's School on behalf of the 106th graduating class. These men and women have assumed the roles of teacher, role model, and friend. The drive and passion for their chosen vocation is unparalleled and their work extends far beyond the classroom.

In my personal experience, my own mother began teaching here at Saint Paul's in my junior year and it was truly and eye opening experience. Other than having to deal with her having a closer watch over me every day, I was able to see the amount of effort she put into making her young eighth grade class learn the complexities of the math world, bringing to light in me the work that is done by each and every faculty member here at this school. From arriving at school early to help before a test to staying hours after helping a struggling student, the faculty here at Saint Paul's is unlike any other.

The extracurriculars offered on campus have given students the opportunity to see our teachers in the light of Saint John Baptist De La Salle's mission of "teaching minds and touching hearts." I cannot thank Mr. Kevin Moore and Mr. Richard Pichon enough for all that they have taught me through service with Key Club and Habitat for Humanity. They have shown me what it truly means to be a servant leader. These men are just two examples of the many, many ways our faculty's work extends far beyond the classroom.

Mother Teresa once said "I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples." Our faculty, with the guidance of the Christian Brothers here at Saint Paul's, not only personifies that philosophy, but manages to instill it in the minds of their

students. By being men and women of God, they have used their influence on us students in such a positive manner that we will now go out into the world and spread the seeds of change they have planted in our minds.

Will:

I would be remiss if I did not take the opportunity to welcome the 167 young men sitting on this very stage behind me today. 4 years ago, we sat on this same stage, in this same building, around the same people when we had our 8th grade promotion. We had no idea of what we would learn. We had no idea of the friends we would meet. We had no idea of the memories we would make. We had no idea of how epic, how extraordinary our Saint Paul's experience would be. And 4 years later, as I look upon this assembly of 167 young men here today, I can confidently say that these young men are a true testament to the quality, history, and ideals of a Saint Paul's student.

When I started reminiscing over this year, I thought of words from the wise poet, writer, and musician Tauheed Epps, more commonly known as the rapper 2 Chainz,

“handed my diploma, handed me the keys, call me Socrates”

Whether 2 Chainz is actually wanting to be called Socrates is beyond me, but today I look forward to the Class of 2017 getting their keys-- the keys to a whole new world of opportunity and possibility.

Class of 2017, I welcome each of you to today's ceremony to celebrate your future and the keys you are about receive as well as rejoice in the culmination of the past 5 years, the past 1,825 days, the past 6,300 hours of school, and the countless friends, experiences, and memories made.

Men of Saint Paul's I formally welcome you here today to the place where strangers have become friends and friends have become brothers.