

The Salutatorian Awards goes to the seniors with the second most outstanding academic record.

The 2019 salutatorian award went to:

Nicholas Aaron Briggs

Jackson Matthew Gold

Ross Thomas Hightower

Luke Joseph Paille

Jack Michael Schwartz

Three of the above delivered the following Salutatorian Address:

On behalf of the entire Senior Class and St. Paul's School, I, Luke Joseph Paille, would like to welcome everyone into the **One Hundred and Eighth Annual Commencement Exercises of The Saint Paul's School**. Additionally, I would like to give special recognition to our celebrants with us today. Please help me in welcoming Father Matthew Clark, Bishop Robert Muench, Father Glen LeCompte, and Deacon Jeffrey Stein. Thank you for being here with us. For the last time, we walk into this building as students, and as you could probably tell by the royal blue bed sheets and the geometrically sound hats, we are about to graduate. We have loaded up our bags, and we are ready to leave everything that we have ever known to take on something greater, but we did not make it here alone. For every mistake, stumble, or fall, there was a hand to teach, to guide, and to help us back up. So, to begin the trilogy of salutatorian addresses, I would like to give a heartfelt welcome and thank you to the faculty and staff of St. Paul's, for being here yesterday, today, and tomorrow. Whether it was a lesson in calculus from Mrs. Cullen or a life lesson given in the form of yelling and screaming by the one and only Coach Moore himself, we depart with more than we came. In Mr. Ashcraft's religion class I learned that, "Man can only find himself through the sincere gift of himself," and if that has any modern world application, it's here at St. Paul's. I believe that each and every one of you has contributed to making the world a better place. Personally, I have trouble calling the faculty here "teachers" because I feel more like a friend or a son than a student. I trust these people; they have given me everything that I need to conquer the rest of the world, and I am confident that the people sitting on this stage would say the same. To all of the faculty of St. Paul's, you have made our high school a home-away-from-home by making us feel comfortable and welcome in a typically indifferent and cold environment. Where we had doubts, you all had reassurances and where we had problems, you all had answers. Following a love of teaching and a mission of touching the hearts of young men, I believe that every staff member associated with St. Paul's has fulfilled that mission. It takes a special kind of love to put up with hundreds of teenage boys on a daily basis because I know how difficult we can be, but as the Kingslayer Ser Jaime Lannister once famously and infamously stated, "The things we do for love." Thank you for being here today and for preparing us for the next step on the journey ahead of us. We are forever in your debt.

Greeting to Family:

As I look out into the audience, I, Ross Hightower, know I am looking at parents, brothers, sisters, grandparents, and other family members who have been with us for every step of our high school careers.

Welcome parents to the end of tuition checks*, the end of packing lunches*, and the end of fervent calls at 7:50 in the morning asking for forgotten homework, IDs, or detention slips*.

Today is the culmination of years of not only our, but also your hard work. For many of us, Saint Paul's would not be possible without your support, and so I thank you. Thank you for giving us not only an education but an experience that has prepared us for the "best of times and worst of times" according to Brother Ray and Charles Dickens. In just a few short months, we will be facing the next stage of our lives. And this time, you will not be beside us. As scary as this may be for us, and maybe more so for you, know that we are ready. We are ready because of the lessons you have taught us at home and the lessons we have learned at Saint Paul's.

Next, welcome, brothers and sisters, to the last high school event you have to attend for your brother. Whether it was sporting events, band concerts, quiz bowl competitions, or theater performances you were highly encouraged to go to, you have been there for us in our spectacular successes and crushing defeats. Thank you for supporting us in our high school careers. You have made our accomplishments special and our failures manageable.

Next, I would like to welcome and thank grandparents. I know that many of you have traveled far to witness this special event in our lives, so please know that your presence is appreciated and cherished. Welcome to the graduation of the grandchild you have pampered over the objections of his parents. Thank you for being there for us at our proud moments of high school and for loving us unconditionally and supporting us in all we do.

Finally, for all other family members who were lucky enough to get one of those precious eight tickets, I welcome you. You deserve to be here for all the help and support you have given us on our journey to this point. Knowing it will continue into the next stage of our lives, we thank you for the endless guidance, love, and friendship you have given us.

It has been my honor to welcome all family members to this celebration, and I genuinely thank you for all you have done for the class of 2019

Welcome to Friends

I, Jackson Gold, look at the other men sharing the stage with me, and I see another group I would like to thank: friends. Between school, practice, and extracurriculars, most of us spend more time on campus with our friends than with our own family. All that time together grants students the opportunity to create deep bonds with their fellows, and form the Brotherhood Saint Paul's is so well known for.

As I advanced through the grades, I noticed that every year my pack of friends grew larger and larger until senior year where my pack expanded to cover our entire class of 150 other students. And having so many

friends provides an opportunity for growth through interaction with people of unique abilities: whether it be debating the wetness of water, arguing about our favorite characters in game of thrones, or complaining about the difficulty of our latest math test. We still lack much life experience, but along our high school journey, we were able to borrow bits of knowledge from our classmates that will be applicable long in the future.

In conclusion, the class of 2019 is grateful for your attention, your assistance, and your aid in helping us achieve our goals. In addition to the brothers, our family, our Friends, and our faculty, there is a plethora of others we wish to thank for touching our hearts and teaching our minds. As Brother Ray states about the candle at the end of every assembly, while our Lasallian education at Saint Paul's may be extinguished, what it represents: the love of God, the Five Core principles, and the brotherhood we have formed, can never be extinguished. Thank you Saint Paul's for providing us with such a wonderful place to Rise up as Men of God.

The Valedictorian Award goes to the seniors with the most outstanding academic record. The 2019 valedictorian award went to:

Jonathan William Bertucci
Joshua Michael Devier
Beau Michael Franklin
Cullen James Irwin
Andrew Michel Norlin
Michael Joseph Philippe
Joshua Anthony Rovira
Christopher Richard Wilson

Three of the above delivered the following Valedictorian Address:

Jonathan Bertucci

Good afternoon, class of 2019, faculty, and family. I would like to thank all of the family members here for deciding to send your sons to Saint Paul's. This monumental decision has allowed your son to be part of a brotherhood that will stay with him the rest of his life. You have allowed your son to make memories with people he will never forget. And lastly, being an only child, you have allowed me to have 150 brothers.

We would like to take this time to address all the spectacular successes of the class of 2019. As the centennial class of the start of Lasallian education at St. Paul's, our class has had high standards to fulfill. I can say and the faculty will agree, the class of 2019 will be remembered. Whether it be for the many clubs started or the success in athletics, the class of 2019 has performed these ordinary tasks extraordinarily well.

In addition to academics, the Lasallian education's mission is to carve us into men of God. We have been mentored by our faculty through the five core Lasallian principles: Quality education, inclusive community, respect for all persons, faith in the presence of God, and concern for the poor and social justice. The class of 2019 has fulfilled the pillar of Quality education. The state average for the act is a 19.3. With the assistance of the faculty here at St. Paul's, the 2019 class average is a 26 with 44 graduates over a 30 and 2 perfect scores of a 36. At LSU spring testing, 18 students achieved 181 credit hours which is equivalent to 132,000 dollars. In addition, our class has 14 students recognized by the National Merit Scholarship

Corporation. Compounded with these statistics, I can say that my brothers here have not only devoted themselves to quality education, but to helping others achieve quality education. Through our national honors society, our class has helped tutor younger students. Not only do my brothers help younger students, but they also help each other. Whether it be through late night math study sessions or early morning crunch time review, these men have set aside their own problems to help solve those of another. It is comforting to know that if you are truly ever in need of help, one of your brothers will always be there. Because of the faculty of Saint Paul's and my brothers, I know that we as a class have embodied Lasalle's principle of quality education. This is something that will not just stay with us in the classroom, it will follow us for the rest of our lives.

Beau Franklin

My name is Beau Franklin. In addition to quality education, Saint Paul's guarantees a safe, prosperous, and familiar environment that embodies itself in an inclusive community, the second Lasallian Core Principle. Often overlooked in ceremonies like these, the teachers, brothers, and staff of Saint Paul's provide the foundation for this community. For example, motivated by their love of teaching, math and science department teachers have brought us closer together through a *shared suffering** by exposing us to the horrors of various homeworks, pop quizzes, and tests. Joking aside, through their sincere efforts, the faculty and staff of St. Paul's serve as role models to the students, encouraging us to respect our peers and love our brothers.

Representing the culmination of five years of that education, the class of 2019 certainly fulfilled the responsibilities required in maintaining such an inclusive community. Recognizing that we serve as role models to younger classmen, we acquitted ourselves in an exemplary manner*, leading our sports teams to a myriad of wins and three state championships, pushing our clubs to achieve spectacular successes, excelling in our classes, and inspiring others to follow in our footsteps. While we were once scattered wolf pups, we have grown into a collective pack, ready to support each other in the next step of our lives. Indeed, from band member to football star to athlete to fortnite enthusiast, our class has bridged our differences and established a community that we will always be able to rely on. Everyone on this stage is proud of the role they played in establishing that relationship, myself included. To demonstrate this special relationship, I *could* name every person on this stage; however, to avoid messing up the schedule and receiving Brother Ray's death stare*, I'll move on to the third Lasallian Core Principle, respect for all persons.

Part of what makes Saint Paul's so special is the relationship present between students and teachers. Through thank you letters, participation in class, and friendly attitudes, we have respected our teachers by appreciating their time, effort, and commitment to better preparing us for the future. Further, we put great effort into connecting with others and dedicating the time to do so. Our class is a group of students that talks to staff, alumni, Core Pack students, and students who look *distraught*, because we enjoy the meaningful relationships we make and sincerely appreciate brightening people's days, even with the power of a single sentence. We extend this respect to all persons and ideologies across the world. The class of 2019 serves as an example of Lasallian men today - all of them genuine, generous, gallant, gifted, gentlemen.

Joshua Devier Valedictorian Speech (Faith in the presence of God & Concern for the poor and social justice):

Concern for the poor and social justice is yet another vital aspect of the Lasallian Core principles. Examples of this principle occur in large and small actions that benefit all. From the HOSA's hurricane drive for the afflicted to Habitat for Humanity's house construction for low-income residents, Saint Paul's has taught us that by remaining vigilant in supporting our community we grow as a class and as individuals. Through the years we as a class have worked hard to develop this core value. I vividly remember gathering at a lemonade stand down the street to raise money for Mrs. Elise Charbonnet Angelette and her fight against cancer. The Saint Paul's Christmas drive and Toys for Tots are both good examples, where we provided Christmas gifts for those who cannot afford them with a smile on our faces. Goals for Grams, yet another project that demonstrates the commitment Saint Paul's has to charity. The joy and bond we experience in service is a key factor that exemplifies our class spirit. We shine because of the pride we take in helping others. As we leave St Paul's with an understanding of the value of service, one of our goals will be to continue to promote the Lasallian culture of service. In providing meals to the hungry, habitats to the homeless, and joy to the distraught, we as the Class of 2019 exemplify not only the Lasallian mission but the principles on which Jesus taught. We, as men of God, will continue to work to not only to fulfill, but exceed, the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of those around us.

Beyond Concern for the Poor and Social Justice, the class of 2019 places faith above all else. Education makes you knowledgeable, but combined with religious principles, it enlightens. St. John Baptiste de La Salle, Saint Brother Benilde, Saint Paul: all models to which we pray each day, guide us along the path we take as faith-filled men. St. John Baptiste de La Salle, raised affluently, left money and comfort to pursue his calling to instill faith into the unfaithful, knowledge into the uneducated, and refinement to the unrefined. It is in pursuing the impossible that we test our faith. De La Salle worked through famine and economic depression to turn his one school into Lasallian education today, including 560 schools that educate a million students in over 81 countries. It is with faith that we pursue our own dreams, knowing that God will never be far. As we leave our pine-dotted campus, we will be challenged, but in keeping with the Class of 2019 and the core values St Paul's has instilled in us we will be strong and faithful.

In 8th grade, we arrived at St Paul's as rough irregular pearls, but through Lasallian guidance and direction, we have been shaped and polished to go forth and "Rise Up as Men of God."