

Salutatorian Address 2009
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Thank you, Mr. Haddox.

Welcome, Your Excellency, Archbishop Dolan, Dr. Oliveri, Mr. Wingbermuehle, Dr. Heger, members of the school board, faculty, staff, family, friends, and fellow classmates of the Class of 2009!

125. 125 Faces to remember, 125 smiles to capture and 125 students to become graduates. How many of you knew that we have 125 students in our class? Or that there are 60 boys and 65 girls. What else might you have missed during these four years at Borgia? (For instance, I never knew that Mr. Bright and Mrs. Bright were married until it was brought to my attention in Mrs. Hertlein's theology class.) But maybe you missed something a little more simple, like that one person that always smiled at you in the hall. Or the person who waited patiently in the lunch line while everyone else pushed through to be the first to get that chicken fried steak.

I would like to recall those times in the past by using BORGIA as my guide. Starting with B-for the beginning, freshman year. In this awkward stage insecurity held us back from forging new relationships. Our comfort zone consisted only of our grade school friends. That was also the year they tried to turn Borgia into Hogwarts by having each class representing a different house. That was really a success...But that was also the year we first met each other. First impressions were formed and unfortunately cliques created. As new people to the school we clung to who we could and were to cool or more likely afraid to hang out with people outside our groups and certainly no one ever dared to sit with someone else in the lunch room. B is for Beginning.

The next letter of Borgia "O" embodies opportunity. Throughout our four years at Borgia we have been provided with the opportunity to grow scholastically, socially, emotionally and spiritually. We have made the most of that opportunity and it will allow us to excel in the years ahead. O is for Opportunity.

R is for real. No matter how much we would like to think our four years at Borgia were perfect, they weren't. Of course we had drama and our share of failures, but it is how we have grown from those experiences that makes our class special. Without tribulations comes no real success, and being here today as a class is one of those successes. R is for real.

G stands for our goals. Coming into Borgia we all had goals, some started out with high expectations freshman year while maybe some of you haven't really developed a goal until this year. No matter the case, we all have had a

special goal that we have wanted to achieve at Borgia and I hope that today you can say to yourself that you have achieved it. G is for our goals.

I represents inspiration. After freshman and sophomore year something sparked within our class. Our groups started to integrate; our cliques began to dissolve. The scene in the lunch room had dramatically changed. I am not quite sure what inspired the class of 2009 for this drastic change, but I am so grateful for it. Seeing others reach out has also inspired me to become more open. I like to think of it as coloring outside the lines. At first you are a little scared and somewhat disappointed that you didn't follow the rules, but after you get used to it you realize it is the most beautiful picture you have ever drawn. So I is for inspiration.

The last letter of Borgia is A which signifies Achievements. As seniors we have already accomplished so much. We have completed four challenging years of high school where we have developed not only as students but also as people. As individuals all of you have many achievements, but consider what we have accomplished as a class. We have become just one big group of friends. What an achievement to start out so segregated and now become so unified. We can truly call ourselves the class of 2009.

125 that is the number of students leaving today as friends, that is the same number of young men and women that will proudly walk the aisle and accept their diploma tonight. I welcome you to your 2009 commencement ceremony and congratulate you for making it this far. But don't forget what Borgia really is: THIS is Borgia. YOU are Borgia. Borgia is not the buildings or hallways, the school books or honor roll certificates, the state plaques or honorary medals,

THE PEOPLE WE BECOME WHEN WE LEAVE THIS PLACE: THAT IS THE LEGACY OF BORGIA!