GRADUATION SPEECH

FOR

LORRIE BLITCH

Hello everyone and welcome to this year’s graduation exercises for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. I would like to take a few moments to thank all of you for being here. I’m sure, as you can imagine this ceremony means so much to our “scholars.” To all of the moms and dads (**Do you feel more comfortable saying “Mommies and Daddies? If so please switch**), and to the brothers, sisters, grandparents and friends that are here with us to celebrate today, I want to warmly welcome each one of you. I don’t have to remind you how excited our graduates are today and even though they are quite young I know the lessons they learn at this age will stay with them for their entire lives. There is a saying that teaches us, “Give me the child until he is seven years old and I will show you the man.” I have witnessed hundreds of times how true this is. It is so vitally important to establish a solid faith based foundation in even the youngest of children. This is the point in their lives when it is most important to instill the values so treasured and essential in order to live a meaningful and worthwhile Christian life. A solid foundation with which to go forth must have powerful and empowering elements and in addition to introducing the important aspects of traditional learning, it is vital to give the child a solid Christian foundation as well as an understanding and respect for all that this country stands for: Our rights, freedoms, and privileges as proud American citizens.

(**If you don’t want to use his name, you can say, ”It has been said”)** Joel Osteen has said, “A blessing is a circle of light drawn around a person to protect, heal and strengthen.” From the time a child is born that circle of light is nurtured with love and faith and knowledge. As parents of these radiant souls it is so important that you know that it is never too early to inspire their calling to their Christian faith, their passion for knowledge and discovery, and their love of their country and all it stands for. Ronald Reagan said, “Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn’t pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same.” This country’s Constitution is more than a legacy. It is our responsibility to ensure that our children uphold the principles set forth by the generations of patriots who preceded us. Now that you are parents part, of the glory and responsibility of that blessing is to be vigilant in your mission to instill the need for these principles into your children. The other aspect of parenting is to also introduce and reinforce a solid and meaningful Christian education. Remember, “If we don’t teach our children to follow Christ, the world will teach them not to.”

Today we honor a group of adorable, open minded, precious and impressionable young people. They are and always will be your children. No matter their age you will somehow always see the essence of this sweet and priceless time as you look into their eyes and remember this day. As they get older they will naturally be increasingly exposed to other influences. It is up to you, the parents and families of these children, our graduates, to nurture and provide the compass and guide they will need more and more as they go forth into the unknown world. Ronald Reagan also said, “Each generation goes further than the generation preceding it because it stands on the shoulders of that generation. You will have opportunities beyond anything we’ve ever known.” Since President Reagan said that so many years ago, we can see how this world has changed and how now, more than ever, our children need structure, attention, focus, direction, and faith. A solid Christian education provides the necessary character building so desperately needed to help find solutions to life’s problems. Respect for this country’s history insures that we work to sustain the principles so painstakingly fought for by the fathers of this country.

We know that a solid, well-rounded investment in early childhood education is the best investment we can make in our families, our futures, our freedoms, and our faith. On behalf of all of the staff here at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I want to thank you for entrusting us with such precious “cargo.” It has been our privilege to guide and inspire their earliest educational experiences and it has been our intention that the time these children have spent with us inspires them to go forth and find their passion for their families, their community, their church and their country. Thank you all.