Graduation…

<<PAUSE>>
Graduation is a time to remember

and a time to dream,
a time to look back

and a time to reach forward,
It’s a time for songs of laughter

and a time for tears of joy,
a time for letting go

and a time for discovering hopes and dreams that are yet unborn,
It’s a time to say good-bye to yesterday

and a time to greet tomorrow with courage,
a time for loving hearts to gather

and a time to celebrate all that we are...

and ALL that we may become.

<<PAUSE>>

To Peter Johansen High School’s Class of 2011 - CONGRATULATIONS! We made it!

Through thick and thin, up and down, we have stayed TOGETHER. United in our School Spirit.

TODAY is our final step together.

Our last shared moment before we begin a new path, a new adventure, as a new person with a unique identity and purpose.

However, we will always remain friends and classmates. Our common experiences and adventures will warm our hearts and bound us together forever.

Let’s take a quick Walk Down Memory Lane –

This was the Class of 2011’s Journey

As freshmen, we took our first steps into high school. Into the unknown land of pep rallies and homecoming dances. We hustled from class to class in an effort to be on-time while still looking calm, cool and collected.

Everything was new and exciting. Our heads were spinning with so many new experiences, people and impressions. It was amazing, fun and a bit stressful.

Suddenly we were swamped with homework and projects. We ALL shared the awkward experience of being new. Trying to find where we belonged. Who we could sit with at lunch…

We created our new outward images of ourselves for our friends while still secretly seeking to find ourselves in this strange new world.

Eventually, we found our classes, our new friends and we even successfully achieved our Internet Driver’s License. – WOOHOO!

After surviving our first year, we suddenly found ourselves as sophomores. No longer the “newbies” – perhaps still underclassmen, but now much cooler!

We were “maturing…”

Getting our real driving licenses.

Hanging out.

Feeling at home and having fun.

School was great and our world was consumed with music, texting the latest gossip, and keeping up with the ever-growing homework.

Finally, we were JUNIORS.

We were upper classmen. This is the best year!

We’re no longer in the bottom echelons. Now, we can float. Yeah, graduation is coming, but that is a LOOOOONG way away. We’re not stressing about college or work or any of that stuff.

We’re loving life. Living large! Enjoying our friends and our days together. These are truly the best of times!

And FINALLY, we are the top dogs! We are SENIORS and we let everyone know it. This is OUR school. This is OUR year. This is OUR class.

So we are the leaders now. We dominate and rule in every aspect. From academics to sports to music and drama – we are at the top! From homecoming to prom to Senior Sunrise – we are a living legend.

In fact,

* WE were first class to have two hot tubs at our senior sunrise
* WE were the ones who were over enthusiastic about bus sign-ups for senior trip, and
* WE were lucky enough to be given the joy of sitting in the Vikings Den for 3 hours during STAR testing…

Ok, maybe we could have skipped the 3 hours in the Vikings Den….but WE did it!

But most of all, WE feel proud of ourselves for making it to where we stand today.

TOGETHER!

From our first steps as Freshmen into the halls of Peter Johansen High School until now, as amazing seniors ready to take on the world, our school spirit has united and protected us each step of the way.

So…. although Mr. Adiar would criticize us for "having the attention span of a gnat," we managed to persevere. To finally show up on time to class, to study hard when it came time to take our tests, to always be available to our classmates and peers when they needed a true friend. We are united. We have grown into young adults who now and we are ready to take on the world.

We are not oblivious to the fact that the world is not this safe haven we have experienced here. We know that we must stand alone and make our own decisions. However, we CAN do that now as educated people because of what our faculty, teachers, classmates, and parents have taught us through time and patience.

So although today is OUR day to celebrate our success, it is also our day to say Thank You! Thank you for teaching us, trusting us, encouraging us and believing in us. We stand here together because of you. It is truly OUR day of achievement.

I leave you now with an important thought about the future from a very famous doctor.

Dr. Seuss wrote:

You have brains in your head.

You have feet in your shoes.

You can steer yourself in ANY direction you choose.

You're on your own.

And you know what you know.

YOU are the guy who'll decide where to go.”

Good luck and congratulations Class of 2011!!!!!!!!