

Hello,

I've been given the opportunity today to reflect upon the past four years of my life, and my time here at CRMS. Throughout my years at this school I've had some great experiences. Sometimes I think we take for granted how lucky we are at this school. We are **required** to rock climb, mountain bike, kayak, play soccer, or any other sport of our interest. We are **required** to go skiing **at least** 2 days a week for an entire quarter. We are **required** to go on 2 fricken awesome outdoor trips every year. On average 24% of US citizens go camping. That means there's roughly 295,557,000 people who never get to set up a tarp or tent, who never get to build a campfire or set up stoves. I can guarantee that there are many more who never get to walk 30+ mile days in rain and snow, over mountains, and through canyons. And I can certainly guarantee that only a select lucky few get to eat refried beans that taste like farts, because the water hole from earlier that day wasn't really a water hole but more of a methane mud puddle.

Now some of you are probably thinking, "Why would anybody want that?" I myself am thinking, "Why did I eat that?" Well I can answer both of these questions quite simply: Because it builds character damnit! In fact recent studies have shown that students who graduate from CRMS have 30% more character. Congratulations my friends, we have *character*.

However, I think that character is not really what it's all about. I think the real reason that CRMS does all these cool things is so we can rub it in the face of all the other schools in the valley about how awesome we are. Oh, and for the icing on the cake, every once in a while we beat them in Soccer too.

CRMS has made me a mountain biker, a rafter, a canoer, a soccer player, a rock climber, a rancher, a jeweler, a blacksmith, a musician, an actor, a writer, a mathematician, a geologist, a chemist, and a physicist. CRMS has made all of us who we are today. And in some small way CRMS will continue to affect the person we are going to be.

Today is a funny day. We sit here stuck in time, not quite high schoolers any more, not quite college kids yet. We have our entire lives behind us, and everything in the world in front of us.

Remember your time here at CRMS. Remember the good times and remember the bad times. Remember the things you loved, and remember the lessons you've learned. Remember your first day, remember today. Remember your first kayak roll, your first crack climb, your first rappel, and your first goal. Remember the first time you tried a fatbelly burger. Looking ahead, whatever you do, don't miss a thing. Never turn down a challenge. Never miss an opportunity to surprise yourself.

And never forget that sometimes you need to stop look around at everything else and focus on today.

I think we've all been wondering what this day would eventually be like. Is it how you imagined it would be? No matter what don't forget it. And if you can, try to imagine this event with a shredding guitar solo playing over, I like it better that way.

Four years ago I was sitting out on that grass, watching my older sister graduate, and thinking to myself how far away that day was. Well, it seems this day is finally upon us. After four years of studying and cramming before exams we're finally here. After four years of fall trips, spring trips, interims, activities, work crews and all school meetings, we made it.

Whoever you choose to be, and whatever you choose to do, be passionate about it

Never believe the crowd. Continue to be an individual but be a good collaborator. Don't forget to slow down every once in while.

The past is already behind us, and the future has not yet arrived. Forget about yesterday, and don't worry about tomorrow. Make the most of right now.

Take it easy Dude....

The Dude Abides.