

Be who you are, not who the world wants you to be

Good evening family, friends, academic adjudicators, and graduates. I'm going to be honest, writing this speech was not an easy task. After hours of watching valedictory addresses on YouTube, I couldn't decide on what I actually wanted to talk about. Did I want to be funny? Did I want to be serious? Did I want to be corny and thank my arms for always being by my side? After reading my first introductory draft to my Mom, she told me, "Charlsie, that doesn't sound like you, just be yourself." So that's exactly what I decided to do, and I hope to encourage you to do the same.

Fellow classmates, as we graduate today, we need to remember to thank those who led us here. Although it would be nearly impossible to name everyone who has encouraged and pushed us to be where we are today, I'd like to thank God, every teacher, every parent, every classmate, and every friend, who has been a part of our journey here at Greene County High School. Most importantly I'd like to personally thank my Mom and Dad for always being by my side and encouraging me to never give up. Once again, thank you all.

Let's take a moment to flash back to four short years ago. At this time, the class of 2017 began to flood the halls of Greene County High School. As freshmen, each of us were enthusiastic yet apprehensive about all the new beginnings

high school had to offer us. We were the newbies, the fresh meat, the babies. We were scared to death but excited beyond words. This is where our journey began; this was our time to find out who we were. A little time passes, and it's sophomore year. Even though we were still underclassmen, we had the whole high school thing down pat and finally belonged to a social group. At this time, we were absorbed in complaining about Common Core, reading *The Scarlett Letter* and getting our drivers licenses and first vehicles. Next came the excitement of junior year. Loaded to the max with History class and college courses, junior year's education was definitely the most stressful of all other years, but boy did we have a blast. This was the era of Pirates of the Caribbean, Prom Round 1, Purple Rain, and Leg17. At the time, we didn't know we were making memories; we just knew we were having fun. And with the blink of an eye, it's now senior year. Senior year has been one to remember. Our schedules caused us to start drifting apart, but we continued to remain as close as ever. With the tears of our lasts and now our firsts, our class came together and enjoyed every moment we had.

In just a few short moments,

Valedictorian Address

By **Charlsie Hicks**

*Greene County High School
Class of 2017 Valedictorian*



our lives will be changing forever. We will soon step out into the real world and become adults. Most of you know Forrest Gump's familiar quote, "My mom always said life is like a box of chocolates, you never know what you're gonna get." Just as Forrest implied, you never know what is coming your way in life. As we begin to become adults we will acquire many new responsibilities and start facing multiple challenges. The separate paths that we take will lead us to different destinations. Some of us will go to college, some of us will go to work, some of us will get married, and some of us will

become parents. There's no way to predict where each of us is going, but the one thing we can do as we greet the future with anticipation is remember to stay true to ourselves. Be who you are, not who the world wants you to be. Class of 2017, that's what I challenge each of you to do. As we begin our journey as high school graduates, I encourage you all to just be yourself. Let people see the real, imperfect, flawed, quirky, weird, beautiful, and magical person that you are. With that being said, I'm also going to quote a doctor. And yes, it is Dr. Seuss. "Congratulations, today is your day. You're off to great places, you're off and away. You have brains in your head, you have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose. You're off on your own and you know what you know and you are the one who will decide where to go.... I'm

glad we had the times together just to laugh and sing a song, seems like we just got started and then before you know it, the times we had together were gone."



We are so proud of you and all of your accomplishments!

Love You,
Memaw,
Papaw
and the
Garretson
Gang



Senior 2017
**Anna
Clarissa
Denmark**

Remember Who You Are!

For ye are all
the children of
God by faith in
Christ Jesus.
Galatians 3:26

**We Are
Proud
Of You!**

**Love,
Daddy,
Momma,
Tara,
McKenna
and Abel**





**CONGRATULATIONS
GRADUATES!**

**The Sky Is The Limit
For Each of You!**

Because of your hard work & diligence, your futures hold great possibilities & promise. We commend you on this accomplishment and wish you the very best in the future.



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**When it's more
than a ding ...**

it has to
be fixed by
the pros.

We are so proud of our Graduates.
We wish you the best!

WEST BODY SHOP
110 River Street
Leakesville, MS (601)394-5105



**Congratulations
Class of 2017**