

Class of 2012, this has been one heck of a ride. I'll be the first to admit that I was a little iffy about s all making it to this point in one piece. But here we are, ready to receive our diplomas and move on to whatever life has in store for us.

Seniors, I think we can all agree that we owe big thank you to Ms. Smith and Ms. Shilling for helping so much this year with planning our trip, and to Mr. Richardson for always lending a helping hand and of course to Dr. D. who it all would not have been possible without.

As co-president of our class I want to thank all of you because you made my job very easy. All of you worked so hard this year and I'm so proud to be a part of this. We may not all be best friends but that didn't matter because over the past year we became a team, working together to accomplish the same goal. Overall that's what Karafin's all about. This school brings people together from all over New York and parts of Connecticut, people we never would have known otherwise, people who even if we did know otherwise we may not have talked to, and we became friends. I see people complain about Karafin all the time and I'm not going to stand up here and say I've never complained myself but now I'm beginning to see just how lucky we all are to have a place like this. A place where were constantly being supported by those around us. How great is it that the staff here actually cares about us, and wants us to succeed?

I'm going to quote Maya's face book status from the last day of school which I thought was particularly appropriate; "I seriously feel like we're all just one big dysfunctional family. We argued, said how much we couldn't stand each other, wasted tons of energy on pointless drama, but in the end we kind of found out how much we really meant to each other. So yeah, I love my dysfunctional family." This is something I really love about our school. We're not perfect, and we don't pretend to be but we still love each other and were still family, dysfunctional or not. Everyone knows everyone. We're not just another name from yet another list of kids. We're the face that goes with the name and the character that goes with the face.

Coming straight to Karafin from public school it's a pleasant change when I can get off the bus in the and I get a "good morning Sarah" from Mr. Richardson, or when I come back from being sick and Dr. D. says "welcome back, are you feeling better?" In public school, not only did my principal have no clue who I was he certainly didn't know if I'd stayed home sick.

Saying that I'm extremely grateful doesn't even begin to cover it. Obviously grateful to Karafin, but even more to me and my classmates families. You are our support systems and the people for us to fall back on when we need it the most. You've played a huge part in getting us here tonight. As children we depend on our families to do things for us like put a roof over our heads, feed us, clothe us, and take us to doctors...

Well tonight marks the beginning in a change in all that. Tonight marks the day that we officially have to start being responsible, taking care of ourselves and not relying o everyone around us to do things for us. I'll admit at first this scared me but were in this together, were not alone. Who really knows what comes next? For some, college, others trade school, and some will go and start working. Whatever we aim to achieve in life remember that we all have the ability to succeed, tonight is our proof.