

Alyssa Gomez

Class of 2017

Good evening faculty, family, guests, and soon to be graduates. I hope everyone is having a lovely night so far. My name is Alyssa Gomez and tonight I graduate. Tonight is a night that many of us have dreamed about. Perhaps, like me, you doubted whether or not you would make it this far. However, we have overcome all obstacles and this accomplishment is ours. I started my journey at Karafin School three years ago. I remember my first day and how nervous I was. I'm sure my peers can relate. That day I was hoping for the best, but expecting the worst. From day one I received the acceptance I longed for and a warm welcome. The Karafin School quickly became my safe haven and a place where someone like me could strive. During my time at Karafin, I have grown immensely with my fellow students. Together we have bonded through our struggles and it has all led up to this night. Tonight we receive our diplomas and say goodbye. We must say goodbye to our high school experience. We prepare to move on and walk our own chosen paths. There may be fear in our hearts, but it is with courage that we start this new beginning. I want to say thank you to God for giving me strength. Thank you to the faculty for believing in me when I didn't believe in myself. I want to say thank you to my friends – especially my partner in crime and the salutatorian, Jordan. I would not have survived this year without her. Last, but not least, thank you from the bottom of my heart to my family for their endless support and love. I would not be here without the people in this room. To my fellow soon to be graduates, I believe in us. Congratulations!