



Dear Class of 2014,

I still remember your first day in the Upper School in August 2010. In your bright, oversized "[Fresh On Deck](#)" t-shirts, you were small and tentative. Mr. Colb was dressed, unconvincingly, as a pirate, as that was the theme.

All along your class has been distinctive. Your freshman year was our first with the new Athletic Center, and yours was the biggest class in the high school. During spirit week you actually beat the seniors in the tug of war, and that was a first. Well, I guess it helps to have 155 people on your team. As 9th graders, many of the girls dated upperclassmen, which prompted some older girls to ask Ms. Lapolla to tell you that you had to say "no" to prom offers.

And yours is the first class to have a Senior Knight Live, a fun new event that showcases your talents and spirit and captures your inclusive personality and lively sense of humor. Huge thanks to Tracy Johnson and Alisyn Crowder and the group of very experienced and dedicated parent volunteers for developing the theme, coming up with the amazing decorations, and making SKL happen. And great thanks also to Alex Perez and Jan Chandler for making the entertainment portion come to life.

Seniors, I will miss you. As an advocate for a (somewhat dysfunctional) group in your grade, I had the good fortune to watch you closely all four years and see you meet the challenges of the school — from Physics to the history research paper to senior electives — and easily and confidently grow into positions of leadership in the clubs and teams and arts performances. You have grown, both figuratively and literally. No longer little and timid like you were on that pirate day back in 2010, you are, in the apt metaphor of SKL, sailing off into uncharted waters. What is clear watching you these past years and in particular these last several months as you have wrapped up your classes, finished your last projects, and chosen your colleges is that you are confident and bold and ready not only to set sail but to chart your own course. You have the skills, independence, and record of accomplishment to do so. We are proud of you and have complete confidence that you will be able to navigate on your own. Please know that we are going to continue to watch you, root for you, and expect great things from you.

It has been a great pleasure to watch you become the confident, accomplished young adults that you are. Congratulations!

John Schafer