



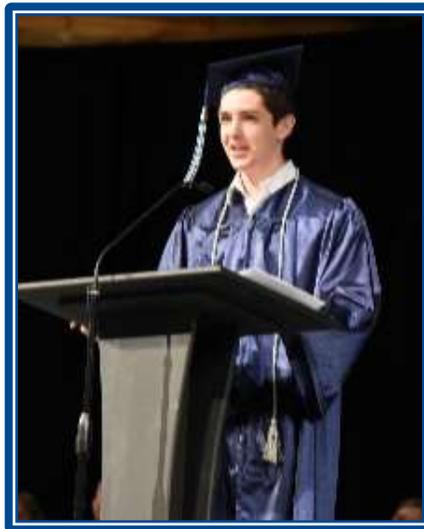
# SALUTATORY ADDRESS, 2018

VERITAS PREPARATORY ACADEMY

## *Master Jacob Hreshchysbyn*

Hello. First, I would like to express my sincerest gratitude for being chosen salutatorian for the class of 2018. I can't put into words what this honor means for me and standing here today in front of all my friends and classmates, I can still hardly believe it. Truly, from the bottom of my heart, I want to say thank you. Indeed, every member of the community here at Veritas deserves thanks. And so, I think it's appropriate to thank each member, starting with our teachers.

They are the ones who give so much of their time, effort, and love to shape all of us students into great-hearted individuals. It's true. The teachers give their love. What else could it be? What else could move one of our teachers, who delights in the beauty and elegance of a geometric proof, to share that delight with one of us by first showing us the most fundamental postulates? What else could move one of our teachers, who finds joy in deciphering and understanding the meaning of a Platonic dialogue in the original ancient Greek, to share that joy by first teaching us the Greek alphabet and the rules of accents? What else could move one of our teachers, who sees the gravity of rhetorical persuasion, to show us this gravity by first teaching us how to make a thesis statement LSU? It can be nothing else but love. And so, for the great actions of their love for others, I want to thank the teachers.



And now, I'd like to thank the students. I want to thank them for all the fond memories that we have created and shared with each other. These are the memories that I hope to carry with me for the rest of my life, the ones that I hope to share someday with new friends and loved ones, the ones that I hope will lighten the dark times and make even better the good times. And so, I want to thank some friends of mine now for

some of those memories. Thank you, Joseph Shanks, for your joke about Nooks and crannies, that I think only I got.

Additionally, thank you for sharing your interests in paleontology, both in giving interesting facts and in creating masterful and accurate drawings of those dinosaurs. Thank you, Rawleigh Grove, for the time we spent hours and hours working together to try to fix that irreparable Xbox 360. Thank

you, Andrew Nelson, for giving that broken Xbox 360. Additionally, thank you for the time when Jack Power, Isabel Skikos, and I all came to your house to build such a good Rube Goldberg Machine, that the machine worked on the first take, at least, according to the video that Isabel edited. Speaking of editing videos, I think I speak for the entire senior class when I say thank you, Isabel Skikos, for the excellent Senior Tribute Night video. Additionally, thank you for the spectacular birthday party you threw for our ancient Greek teacher, Mr. Qualls! Thank you, Joseph Hirsch and Cameron Woehler, for all the

moments you made our entire class crack up laughing, one of which includes the time you attempted to explain to Mr. Nydegger your ironic sense of humor. Thank you, Raph Burch, for brightening all our days when, animated by some pressing topic, you would ask, “wait, what?” and proceed to weigh in. Thank you, Jake Cohen, Brandon Weiland, Nat Felten, Rawleigh Grove (again), Kenny Pham, and Gabriel Lewis for the fond memories of working hard to build, program, and ultimately control a robot. Thank you, Elma Huseinovic and Daci Vuletic, for the times when you spoke with each other in your native language so as to prevent anyone from listening to what you were actually talking about, which made Cameron very suspicious. Thanks go to the entire VPA Chorale, for sharing the beauty of choral music with us, and to a whole stadium of Diamondbacks fans. Thank you, Grace Marvin, for the time when you suggested that I get a job at the Kumon tutoring center, the center in which you along with several other Veritas students, including Isaac Weston and my sister Olena, provided math and reading tutoring to young children. Thank you, Jack Power, Dylan Pierce, Dominic Diaz, and Benjamin Swonger, for being there during the most pleasant and most painful moments of our meeting in which we worked on the first of Dr. Williams’ formidable take-home tests.

I could go on and on in describing all the personal memories that all of you helped to create in my mind. But dangerously soon, we will have to leave high school forever to embrace the next steps in our lives, whether it be tertiary education, the military, or some other venture. We will all very soon take a step into the world. With that in mind, I believe that all of us will have to consider an important question: What sort of people are we going to be in the world? Perhaps the way to answer this question

is to consider another: What has Veritas taught us that will guide us on how to live? The answer to this question is that Veritas has taught us to be great-hearted people. In the beauty of geometry, we are taught great-heartedness. In the meaning of ancient Greek dialogues, we are taught great-heartedness. In the gravity of rhetoric, we are taught great-heartedness. In the ideas we have pondered, written down, and defended, we are taught great-heartedness. These are the things we must remember. These are the things that we must carry with us as we take our steps into the world. At this point, I would like to say something, which, in light of our current circumstances, is somewhat predictable, but no less appropriate or meaningful. Let’s remember what Alyosha Karamazov said to the children at Ilyusha’s funeral. He says the following: “Even though we may be involved with the most important affairs, achieve distinction or fall into some great misfortune – all the same, let us never forget how good we once felt here, all together, united by such good and kind feelings as made us, too, for the time that we loved the poor boy, perhaps better than we actually are.” Thank you. These are the things that we must carry with us as we take our steps into the world. At this point, I would like to say something, which, in light of our current circumstances, is somewhat predictable, but no less appropriate or meaningful. Let’s remember what Alyosha Karamazov said to the children at Ilyusha’s funeral. He says the following: “Even though we may be involved with the most important affairs, achieve distinction or fall into some great misfortune – all the same, let us never forget how good we once felt here, all together, united by such good and kind feelings as made us, too, for the time that we loved the poor boy, perhaps better than we actually are.” Thank you.