

**Sydney:** Good morning and welcome to the commencement ceremony for the Cedar Cliff High School Class of 2022. I ask now that you please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices. Please rise, and gentlemen remove your caps, for the singing of our national anthem, which will be performed by the senior members of the Cedar Cliff Chamber Singers.

***<National Anthem is performed>***

Please be seated while the JROTC color guard leaves the floor.

***<Pause for Color Guard to leave the floor.>***

It is my honor and privilege to welcome each and every one of you to The Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex on this Saturday in June for the 2022 Cedar Cliff High School commencement ceremony. My name is Sydney Angus, and I will be serving as today's master of ceremonies.

I, and my fellow classmates, are incredibly thankful to everyone who was able to make it out today to celebrate the achievements of this class. It is thanks to you and your nurturing and support that we are sitting here today.

I'll be honest as I stand here today in front of my fellow seniors: This speech was done like everything else in high school, last minute.

I spent countless hours and days contemplating what I wanted to say to you all, but the words wouldn't come to me. Only the night before it was due did inspiration hit me. Writing this speech reminded me of those nights in elementary school when you remembered that project that was assigned a week ago.

You know what I'm talking about! The one that required the poster board. You woke up your mom

late at night to drive to your local 24/7 Walmart to collect your poster board... and that glue stick, and maybe some glitter while you're at it.

And you know, it got me thinking how much simpler things were back then. The most I had to worry about was whether or not I was going to be picked during gym, or if my hand-me-down justice clothes matched my neon reeboks and silly bandz stacked on my wrists. Not to mention, keeping up with the trends, such as handlebar mustaches, crackle nail polish, or color block athletic outfits.

Don't even get me started on the Under Armor versus Nike debate. That was heated at Fairview.

Reminiscing makes you wonder if times will ever be that simple again. As simple as your dad struggling to put your hair into a ponytail before the school bus rolled up or catching every softball your mom hit at practice.

That's the thing about growing up. Things are never quite as simple, but perhaps we can find ways to have that happiness again.

I urge you, as you move your tassels from right to left and you go out of the farm show complex into

the great, big world, to find the childlike joy in life.  
Stop and smell the flowers. Jump into that puddle.  
Play games with friends. Pick up hobbies that  
always fascinated you.

Those times are not entirely gone. I promise  
you. All you need to do is look for it.

Thank you.

*<Pause>*

It is now my pleasure to introduce the district administration seated on the platform:

**DR. TODD STOLTZ, Superintendent of Schools**

*<Applause>*

And, would the rest of the cabinet and administrative team of the district please stand to be recognized.

*<Applause>*

I would also like to recognize the school board seated here on the platform:

**Mr. Brian K. Guistwhite - President of the School Board**

*<Applause>*

Additionally, I invite the rest of the West Shore School Board to rise and be recognized.

*<Applause>*

Thank you all for your presence today and your involvement in this ceremony.

The teachers in attendance here today encouraged us to keep trying and celebrated with our successes. I ask that all Cedar Cliff High School teachers present today please stand as we recognize them for their dedication to their students and for creating a community of caring. None of this would have been possible without them. Thank you.



*<Applause>*

Our first speaker today will be heading to **Penn State at University Park** to study **biochemistry**. I am pleased to introduce my friend and the reason that I passed AP Physics this year – salutatorian **Nelson Le.**

*<Applause>*

***Nelson speaks***

*<Applause>*

Thank you, **Nelson**.

This year's valedictorian plans to study  
**mechanical and aerospace engineering** at  
**Princeton University**. Please allow me to introduce  
**Soloman Khan**.

*<Applause>*

***Soloman speaks***

*<Applause>*

Thank you, **Solomon.**

At this point in our ceremony, I call forward **Mrs. Tara Lingle**, Cedar Cliff assistant principal, and **Mr. Patrick Tierney**, senior class guidance counselor, who will recognize those who received Senior Awards this year.

*<Awards winners stand to be recognized>*

*<Applause>*

Thank you, **Mrs. Lingle** and **Mr. Tierney**, and congratulations to all of the award winners.

I now call upon **Dr. Kevin Fillgrove**, principal of Cedar Cliff High School, for the presentation of the class.

*<Dr. Fillgrove presents the class>*

*<Dr. Stoltz accepts the class>*

*<Diplomas are awarded>*

After 13 years of education, we are celebrating this milestone. Would the graduates please rise?

*[Raise arms to class]*

Our educational career at Cedar Cliff High School is now over, and to symbolize the completion of our high school careers and the end of a very important step in the lifelong pursuit that is education, I now ask that all graduates follow my lead as I move my tassel from the right to the left side of my cap.

*[Move tassel from right to left]*

*<Pause>*

Congratulations, Class of 2022!

*<Applause>*

I ask now that the audience please rise and join in the singing of the Alma Mater, led by senior members of the Cedar Cliff Chamber Singers.

Please honor the class of 2022 by remaining in your seats until all the participants in today's ceremony have recessed out of the complex. On behalf of the senior class of 2022, I thank you very much for attending the commencement ceremony. Have a wonderful day!

*<Alma Matre and Recessional>*