

Class of 2021 Valedictorian Address

Natalie: Welcome family, friends, staff, and classmates to our graduation ceremony. Thank you all for coming out to celebrate with us. We are honoured to be representing our class. We would like to wish a Happy Father's Day to the fathers in our lives, and a Happy belated Mother's Day to the mothers who expected to be sitting here a month ago.

Mikaela: Thank you for shaping us into the people we are today and giving us freedom to pave our own paths. Your support means the world to us.

Natalie: Thank you to the teachers. To Ridgely, for always leading with your heart and putting up with our shenanigans. To Delainey, for teaching us to be good, strong individuals. To Codling, for your quiet passion and expertise. To Leah, for the best life advice and workout plans. To Kari, for your hard work and leadership.

Mikaela: And finally, to Klassen, for your never-ending patience. Your positive impact on LCBI will continue long into the future. We wish you the very best in your adventures next year and send our love.

Natalie: We express our gratitude to everyone who keeps this school running: the kitchen staff, administration, Chris, Trina, and the dorm staff. Your compassion and dedication make LCBI the place we know and adore.

Mikaela: I'd especially like to thank Paul Haugen. The football field looks great. Good work on that.

Mikaela: Sitting over there is the class of 2021. Some of us have been hanging around for four years now- say hi guys. We have some third-years, and maybe I'm biased, but I'd say we have a pretty solid group of second-years. Oh, and one special newcomer this year- how's it going, Cadence?

Natalie: Every single one of you has brought joy and laughter to grade twelve and made it a memorable year. You all contribute in unique ways. Among us are future engineers, teachers, farmers, firefighters, entrepreneurs, nurses, and pirates. I can't wait to come to homecoming and see where life has taken you all.

Mikaela: A rare thing about this school is that friendships transcend grades. We are not only leaving each other, but the rest of the LCBI family. The grade elevens, tens, and nines are some of the most beautiful and kind people I've met. They are my best friends and I love them. I know they will step into our shoes next year with grace and determination.

Natalie: This was not a typical year for LCBI. Sports and trips we looked forward to were not possible. But there was a silver lining. Everyone stayed on campus during the weekends, we played lots of spontaneous sports, and we pulled more all-nighters in a single year than in the past five years combined. COVID did not stop Vance and Rocco from strutting their stuff at the house plays, or Matthew from producing a spectacular cell project. We went camping, swimming, and paintballing. Oh, and made some good investments on garage sale day.

Mikaela: Although there's a lot to say on the value of hard work and success, LCBI taught me that happiness does not come from fulfilling outside expectations. Others can challenge us and open our eyes to our own potential, but there will always be a million boxes to fit into. Instead, pursue what you love. Please, travel the world, get an education, build relationships, express yourself. Should you struggle to find purpose, one aim you can always live by is to serve others. Let go of rigid anticipation for your life. Focus your light onto others.

Natalie: Normally, graduating in May would be a wake-up call. A reminder to make the most of our final month at LCBI. Our last chance to bond with each other and have a memorable high school experience. Unfortunately for us, time is short. We don't get the same opportunity to cherish and grieve. In just over a week, our class is headed our own separate ways. We are torn between the excitement of grad and the pain of leaving LCBI so soon. Many of us, not just the grade twelves, have experienced the shock of this transition.

Natalie: LCBI does not end after graduation. Here, community is easy. Next year, it will be up to you to form connections. The spirit of LCBI is not confined to this campus. Teach others to love the way we do.

Mikaela: I don't know how to put into words what this place means, but I think this little paradise hidden away in Outlook, Saskatchewan saved a lot of us. Those five months of quarantine that we were apart felt hopeless. Coming back to school last September was a homecoming in every sense of the word. It was a reminder that we are not alone, we are loved, and we are God's children. This year, we did not have sports tournaments, a choir tour, a mission trip, or a live audience for our musical. But, as Leah Rusk reminded us the other day, we spent more time together than any other grade twelve class in the province. Our time here was infused with extra meaning by virtue of that five-month absence. We arrived at the beginning of the year with a desperation to make it count, and it did. There is no way to explain to someone who has not experienced LCBI how this school changes you. I pray you hold the people you've met and the lessons you've learned close to your heart as you drive away down that dirt road in one week.

Natalie: If you're here, LCBI means something to you or a person close to you. Grade twelves, it's time for us to take the next step. But don't forget to come back and remind yourselves what a blessing this place was in our lives.

Thank you and congratulations Class of 2021!