

# **Class of 2015 Commencement Ceremony Student Speaker Information**

## **Speech Requirements:**

- Speech must be written on **one** of the approved topics for the 2014-2015 Commencement Ceremony.
- Speech must be 2-3 minutes in length (approximately 400-500 words).
- One speech per graduating student may be submitted.
- Selection is based on quality, originality of content and oral presentation.

## **Graduation Speech Topics:**

### **Prompts:**

1. “You can Google for an answer. You can Google for a mate. You can Google for a career. But you can't Google to find what's in your heart, the passion that lifts you skyward.” – Plumeri. What does this quote mean for the class of 2015?
2. “Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life. Don't be trapped by dogma which is living with the results of other people's thinking. Don't let the noise of others' opinions drown out your own inner voice.”-Steve Jobs. How will you and the class of 2015 create your own path and shape the future?
3. “One day you will understand that it is harder to be kind than to be clever.” – Bezos. How has your time at OPHS taught you to be kind?
4. Write about a topic of your own choosing.

### **Presentation Requirement:**

Entries will be orally presented before the selection committee on **June 2nd, 2:30-4:15 in G-9.**

If you submit a speech, please block out this time on your schedule.

**\*DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION\***

**May 28th, 2015 @ 1:00 p.m.**

**Please submit speech to Mr. Meskis  
Advice**

- Limit yourself to one or two key ideas that you want your audience to remember
- Tell a story to illustrate those ideas. We all like stories more than lectures laden with statistics
- Keep it short. Remember that people are sitting in the hot sun and looking forward to post-graduation celebrations. They'll appreciate brevity
- Be relevant. Talk about major events that happened over the past four years, both worldwide and on campus. Also, given today's economy you might want to offer some practical advice. But...
- Don't give too much advice. This is the time to offer hope.
- Thank the parents. They have been through a lot. It will mean a lot. And above all...
- Avoid Cliches. Don't even think of saying “spread your wings”....