

Oak Views

The Graduation Edition

Inside this issue:

Graduation Prep	2/3
Scholarships	4/5
Awards	6
Speeches	7-9
Graduates	10-14
Graduates celebrate	15/16

OVHS Staff

Ms. Allen, teacher
 Mr. Cromwell, principal
 Mr. Deck, teacher
 Mrs. Gnatowsky, aide
 Mrs. Kelem, teacher
 Mrs. Liepman, teacher
 Mr. Rogers, counselor
 Mrs. Tribe, school psychologist



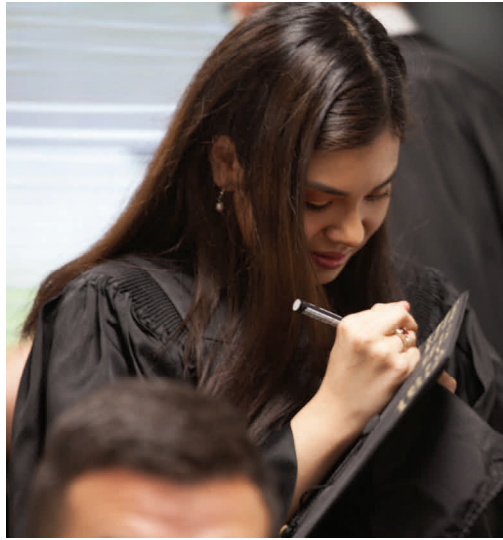
Presenting the Oak View High School Class of 2018

Genevieve Akoury, Eli Andrade, Emily Barber, Makenna Brown, Yasamin Eftekhari, Marc Funes, Blake Hayward, Corey Hayward, Nate Kegley, Daniel Lugo, Ryan McComb, Emma Meek, Taylor Roberts, Michael Rodriguez, Kaytie Romero, Jake Sands, Andrew Tamisen, Hady Tawil, Aaron Villaescusa, Shaeli Young

Graduation Prep



Ryan McComb, Hady Tawil



Kaytie Romero



Taylor Roberts, Michael Rodriguez



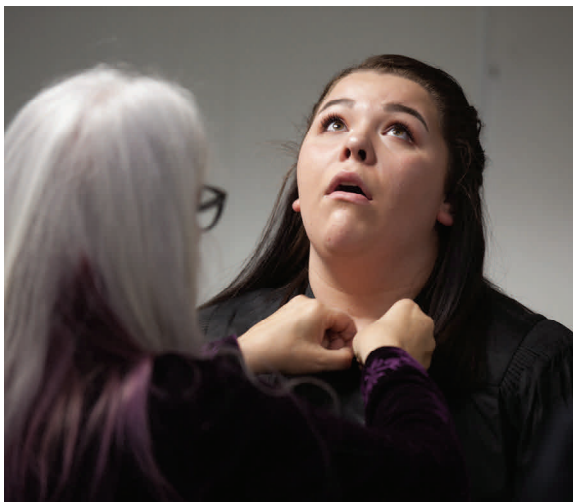
Jake Sands



Kaytie Romero, Michael Rodriguez, Eli Andrade



Daniel Lugo, Makenna Brown, Ms. Allen



Ms. Allen, Taylor Roberts



Genevieve Akoury & mom



Corey Hayward



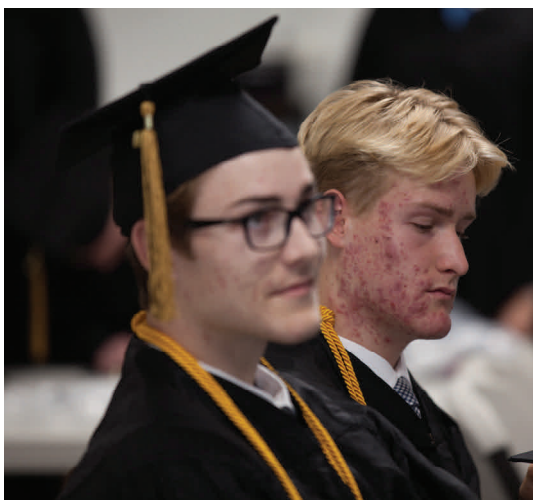
Emily Barber, Makenna Brown



Ryan McComb



Makenna Brown, Yasamin Eftekhari



Blake & Corey Hayward



Daniel Lugo, Ryan McComb



Corey Hayward, Taylor Roberts



Genevieve Akoury, Shaeli Young



Nate Kegley, Emma Meek



Marc Funes, Kaytie Romero

Scholarships

**Sam Manocchia Memorial
Corey Hayward**



**Conejo Simi Moorpark
Association of Realtor's
Emily Barber**



**Millie Andress Memorial
Yasamin Eftekhari**



**National Charity League
Emma Meek**



**Christine E. Brown
Excellence
Genevieve Akoury**



**Lisa Flynn Promotico Memorial
Hady Tawil, Andrew Tamisen**



**OVHS Character
Makenna Brown**



**Diamond in the Rough
Blake Hayward**



**Craig Hastings Memorial
Nate Kegley**



**Oak Park Teachers Association
Kaytie Romero & Aaron Villaescusa**



**Military Service
Award
Michael Rodriguez,
Daniel Lugo, Nate
Kegley, Marc Funes**



**Staff
Scholarships
Ryan McComb,
Eli Andrade, Jake
Sands, Shaeli
Young, Taylor
Roberts**

Awards

Honor Cord Wearers



4-Way Essay Contest winners

Fish Team Members



Speech — Shaeli Young



Good Evening,

I should begin with a warm welcome to the graduating class and our extended family. Let me acknowledge: Parents, grandparents, and relatives- except for those who for some reason forgot to give us any graduation money. Don't worry guys, the night is still young. To our loyal friends- except those to whom we owe money, and finally, teachers and administrators who are constantly borrowing our money. Thank you for coming to celebrate the talented graduating class of 2019 at Oak View High School.

Some of us sit here asking ourselves, who am I? You know, that's a great question. We've spent the last 12 years of our lives trying to prepare for that question, but it isn't something we can google. Actually you can, but I warn you, you may not like what you find. Although it may be our helpful study buddy, annual holiday reminder, and the key to an everlasting supply of High School Musical songs, Google won't tell us who we really are. Although some of us might know, others of us don't. Some of us may not know what we want to do with our lives, while some of us do. I for one have been to a total of 4 high schools, trying to figure out where I belonged, and the first day I walked into Mrs. Allen's dreadful Careers class, listening to Hady hum some hit songs from Shontelle, while watching Rodriguez and Marc argue about a pack of tangerine cuties, I knew that this was indeed the home for me.

Our graduating class of 2019, consists of 20 unique, amazing individuals. I want to take this time to recognize each one as we sit here today ready to take on the world in our hands.

I am proud to say I am graduating with a family filled with talent. A handful of us will be serving the country, while some of us save lives in the medical field. A handful will go on to better their singing careers while others will become inspiring artists. And Aaron, we all know you will be president. A wise woman we all know, once told us "Other schools, are ordinary. They're like Macy's and JCPenny's. You guys are not a Macy's. You guys are a boutique. Filled with unusual and rare yet remarkable items." Each person in our Oak View Boutique has something that the other cannot offer. Each one of us has a talent to share with another. Each man and woman sitting beside me, has overcome boundaries and mountains to shape themselves into the wise and kindhearted people they are. I have not met a group of humans with more strength and wisdom than my fellow graduates and friends have to offer.

Oak View High School has taught us what it really means to love education as well as ourselves and the people we are surrounded by. I walked into this school, unknowing of my future, and feeling unwanted with a hatred so deep for education. Today, I stand here preparing myself for the countless hours of studying during nursing school. I stand with a group of 19 people I can call my family and I have nothing but an enormous thank you to the staff of Oak View High School for putting the love of learning back into our hearts. We are all so different and yet so similar. We all came to this school for different reasons, but learned to push through and overcome our boundaries. I think I can speak for all of my classmates when I say Oak View will always be the home for us. I mean, I don't know about you guys but I know I'll miss the joy of Mrs. Allens coffee bar while we fed "demon babies" and became five star pre-school teachers. No matter where we are in life we can always find a home in Oak View and in each other. As for you Nate, your stuck with me for life.

As we journey on and prepare for the future, teachers don't forget us, parents open up your wallets, (hey college isn't cheap), and my fellow friends, don't be afraid to make mistakes. We've all learned that even the best people make mistakes. Get up, and succeed. I know each one of you will do something great in the world as you have done at this school. Our mistakes will become as important as our successes because they will define us. So, don't aim for perfect, instead, be flawed. Thank you, parents and teachers, for letting us make mistakes, for molding us into unique imperfect beings, and most of all thank you for allowing us to learn from our mistakes as we move forward. I ask you my fellow friends, to not forget what Oak View has taught you as you do unforgettable things in this world. You have strength, you have wisdom, you are worth it, and you will succeed. Congratulations Class of 2019, we flippin' did it.



Speech — Andrew Tamisen



Today I want to talk about discovery and friendship. When I first came to Oak View, my goal was to get my credits and transfer to Oak Park High School. Others graduating here may have felt the same. When I first got here, I didn't want to make any friends. I just wanted to get my credits back and transfer out. So, there I sat in Mrs. Liepman's room, front row, right corner, wearing my hoodie, hood up of course, doing coding on one of her computers. Then McGugan ruined it all by making a no-hoodie rule. Was that rule just because of me? Well, it worked because with my hoodie down, people could see me and they began talking to me. Kat Conley was the first and I decided to start making friends. I figured out I liked it here and began to think about staying. Did you guys feel the same? I wanted to stay, but my family wanted me to continue our tradition of graduating from OPHS. But as I continued here, I found the curriculum and environment worked much better for me than at a traditional school. And I formed bonds with

all of you.

Toward the end of junior year, as I worked to earn the final credits needed for transfer, I found I just didn't want to. When I told Yazzy, Aaron, Ryan, and others, they were happy I was staying. My parents could see this was the best place for me, so they supported my decision to stay here with all of you.

My senior year has confirmed I made the right decision. Being here, I had opportunities not available anywhere else. My work at Brookside earned me the Marie Panec award for my two years of service to students there. I literally climbed to the top of a mountain at Yosemite, something I didn't think I could do, but I got "talked" into it. But again, the best thing about this year, as in my other years here, was the friendship we shared with each other. The students and staff of Oak View are like my second family. That's ultimately what kept me here and makes me glad I stayed. I am happy to be graduating and I can't wait to discover where life leads me. I want to say to my fellow graduates it was nice meeting you and getting to know all of you. I wish you well and hope we cross paths again in the future.



Speech — Genevieve Akoury



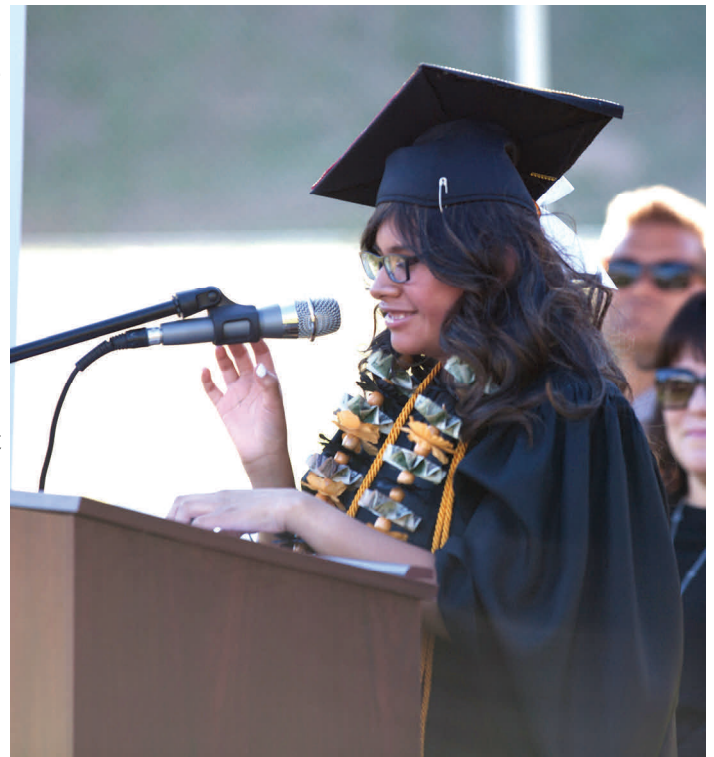
Hello everyone, my name is Genevieve Akoury, but most of you know me as Gigi. I came to Oak View because I was struggling a lot with my mental health and my learning disability. I was tired of the constant pressure that my old school was putting on me. I was tired of being constantly bullied and having the teachers not really understand how I learned.

Coming to Oak View was not easy for me, it was an extremely hard transition. At first I felt that I did not fit in but over time I soon found out that I did fit in. I found out that most if not all of the students here are struggling with something in their lives. I also found out that we all have scars, whether visible or invisible we all have something in our lives that has hurt us in the past. In addition the teachers and staff here are amazing. They have helped me in many ways, not just in academics. They have helped me to find my voice and gain the confidence that needed in myself. They have helped me to learn that there is more to life than just getting As and being a perfectionist. They have also helped

me to learn that not everyone is mean, and if I do come across a person who is mean. I now know how to deal with it. They have also helped me to graduate early,

I know that without their help I would not be graduating today. I also know that without their help, and the help of my mother, father, and all of my family, I would not be going to Seattle Pacific University next year. Going to this school has truly made me a strong person. I am no longer this shy girl who believes there is no hope for the future. Now because of Oak View I know that I have a bright future ahead of me. In addition I now know what my true passion in life is. My true passion is to help others. I want to help people who are in need and are not able to speak up for themselves. I realize that the reason why people don't get help for mental illness is because they don't believe others will want to help them. I know for me this was true.

Oak View has truly set me up for success in my future. With all the academic support given to me and all the care that everyone has for me. Oak View is not just a high school, it is so much more, it is a big family. One that I know I will miss a lot. I am so glad that I came to Oak View, It has been an incredible journey, one that I know I would have not had at another school. If there one thing that I really want you to take away from my words, is that no matter what anyone one tells you, you deserve a happy and meaningful life. It does not matter about your previous mistakes or who you were in the past. What matters is who you chose to be in the future. I'm proud to be graduating from Oak View, and I am so excited to see what the future holds for the class of 2019.



2018 Graduates

Genevieve Rose Maria Akoury

You have so many qualities we admire, – your courage in advocating for an education you deserve, your determination in making the most of every opportunity presented or discovered, your unique blend of creativity and conscientiousness in everything you do.

And do top it off you are a wonderful blend of kindness, toughness, and humor. In addition to our admiration, you also will always have our love.



Elijah Reise Andrade

Eli is a very talented musician and a huge football fan, unfortunately for the wrong team. He comes to school everyday in a wonderful, positive mood. His charming personality has gained him great relationships with all his fellow students and teachers. These traits will carry him far in life no matter which path he chooses. Secretly we are hoping he will become a famous drummer so we can say "we knew him when"



Emily Jane Barber

Emily has been with our Oak View family for 4 years. In that time we have seen her grow up into a wonderful, loving woman. She has always been an excellent student and high achiever in all her classes, earning her an early graduation.

I have no doubt that she will be very successful as she ventures off onto college, which I believe she starts in a few weeks. And I have to say her hugs are still one of my favorite things, quality trumps quantity.



Makenna H Brown

MaKenna has been very driven to achieve her goals this year. I have loved watching her blossom into the amazing woman she is today. She is a strong leader, a gifted student, and a true loyal friend. Her excellent work ethic will take her very far, and I can't wait to see all that she achieves. With her exciting dreams to travel the world, we know that wherever she ventures off to, she will leave a positive impact.



2018 Graduates

Yasamin Eftekhari

Yasmin is a perfect example of the amazing transformation that can occur here at Oak View. She came to us as a freshman, and in 10th grade she was thinking of leaving us to pursue online classes.

Thank goodness we made the agreement that she would stay as long as I did not retire. It looks like we both kept our bargain. She has been a true leader here and the spirit of our school. A student I will truly miss.



Marc Anthony Funes

Marc came to us in 9th grade and over the years has truly developed a love for learning. I have enjoyed his knowledge of history, and we have had many wonderful conversations from the French Revolution to the invention of the Tesla. Marc has made the decision to join the United States Marine Corps, and heads off to Camp Pendleton this summer. We are very fortunate to have such a wonderful young man serving our country.



Blake Michael Hayward

You are truly a Renaissance man, skilled in so many disparate areas – drawing, scootering, academics. Your quietude has not kept us from noticing and appreciating your intelligence, determination, and humor. You have been an esteemed presence in classes and a welcome addition to our family this year. I'll miss you, big guy.

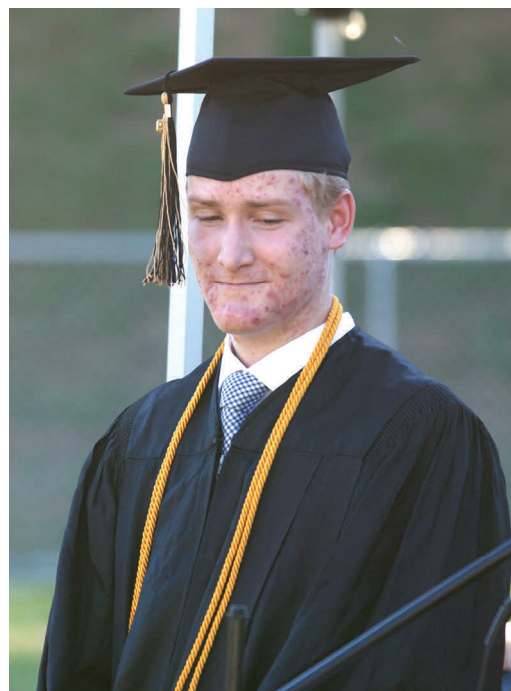
We wish you all the best in whatever blessings are sure to come your way next.



Corey Ross Hayward

For such a tall and imposing young man, you are manifestly kind and loving to everyone from the preschoolers at Oak Park Neighborhood school to your classmates to your family.

We have appreciated your thoughtfulness, seen the benefits of your determination to do well, and admired how you have persevered through adversity. We wish you did not have to go, but know you take our hearts with you.



2018 Graduates

Nathaniel A Kegley

Nate, the man with a smile. He has been such a wonderful part of our Oak View family. I have so enjoyed having him in my science classes, where he has brought wonderful contributions. Nate has always been so honorable, polite and respectful, so it doesn't surprise us that he has chosen the path to serve our country in the United States Army. We know that you will "BE ALL YOU CAN BE"



Daniel James Lugo

While you can present as a smooth operator, so suave and cool, we have come to know you for your kind heart, how you open yourself up as a friend to many, and your great good humor. You have a gift for making everyone you meet feel heard and welcome. You found a home here with us, and we hope you find one just as good in the military. With respect and love, we will miss you very much.



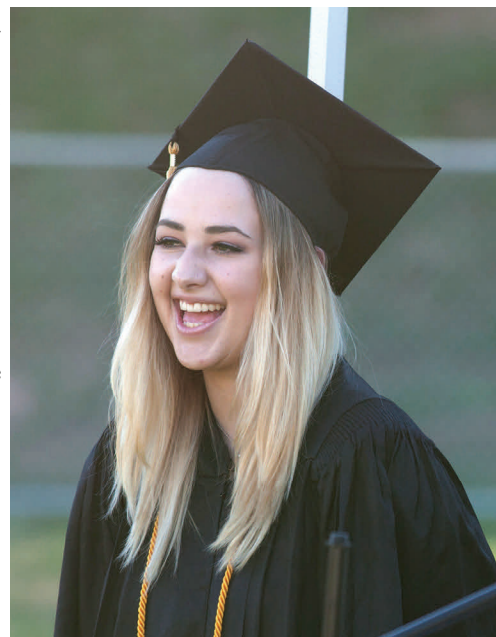
Ryan James McComb

I will so miss all of those after school "pow wow's" we have shared over the years. Ryan is unfailingly kind, warm and funny. His kindness to others has made him a great friend to all here at Oak View. He has great love and honor for his family which are true characteristic of gentleman. Whatever the path you take will undoubtedly leave a positive mark on this world.



Emma Isabella Meek

Emma is the mother of Oak View. She always takes time to help a fellow student who's having a bad day. She always sees the good in people and genuinely cares about our world. Her strong work ethic permitted here to graduate early, and she has been accepted into Maharishi College in Iowa. Her artistic talent is unmatched by any I have seen in all my years of teaching. She will be a student that we will say "we knew her when", which is why I have saved all of her artwork, it's a great investment.



2018 Graduates

Taylor Leigh Roberts

We have only had Taylor on our campus for a few months, but what an impact she has made on us. She possess a love for learning that is constantly demonstrated in the classroom. Her attitude is always positive, making her a perfect addition to our family.

Taylor is headed off to cosmetology school, with goals to have her own business. With her work ethic, I am sure she will achieve it.



Michael Rodriguez

Michael has definitely brought spirit to our school. I have enjoyed having him in all of my classes and I will especially miss our talks about football. He may sometimes come off with a rough exterior, but he truly has a warm heart and is a fine gentleman. He too worked very hard and was rewarded with an early graduation for Oak View. He has great pride in the path he is now taking as he leaves home this summer to join the United States Marine Corps. We are so looking forward to seeing you in those dress blues.



Kaytie I Romero

You come from a loving, tight-knit family, and you have been a wonderful member of our family because of that.

Here, you discovered your inner scholar and developed your ability to do well academically. Your intellect, quiet kindness, and determination impressed staff, and your sweet nature and sharp mind made you many friends. Know that you can be a formidable presence and do much in this world.



Jake Ryan Sands

Jake is never in a bad mood. Even if things are not going his way, he keeps a smile on his face and never complains. He is a wonderful friend to all he encounters, and those friendships he has made I'm sure will last a lifetime. Jake is off to further his education at Moorpark College. His presence here at Oak View will truly be missed, we can't wait to see what his future holds.



2018 Graduates

Mark Andrew Tolentino Tamisen

Andrew is our quiet strong leader here at Oak View. He served on ASB and was a volunteer at Brookside Elementary for 2 years. He has made many friendships here at school including mine. His eclectic music choices always brought pleasure to our walking class and will be truly missed. Andrew is a man with a great love and pride for his family, and we know the path his future will take will reflect that.



Hady Yahya Tawil

Hady is truly an amazing friend. I will so miss all of our crazy wonderful talks. He is a presence, but a wonderful presence. He fills the air with laughter, music and humor (I just wish it was less DURING class).

He is kind, sympathetic and always willing to lend a hand to anyone on campus. Hady is very intelligent and when he puts his mind to it he can do it all.

His adventures in life are just beginning and it will be so exciting to see what they will be.



Aaron Michael Villaescusa

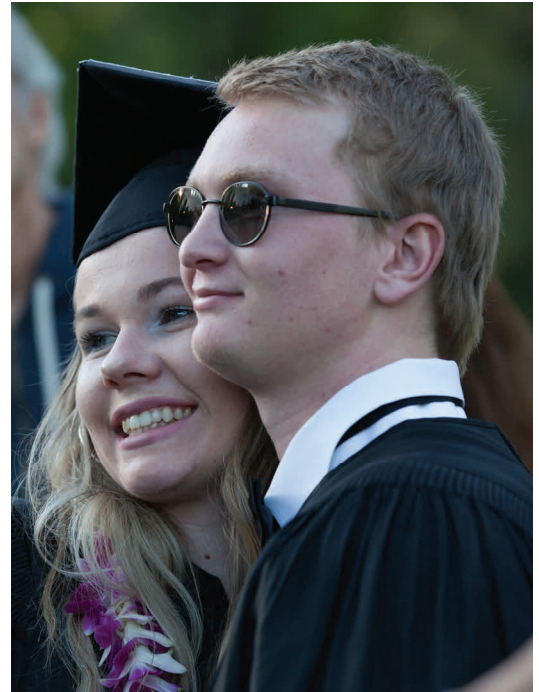
We joke about your political beliefs, but you exemplify the maxim "From each according to his abilities, to each according to his need." Time and again you have found a human in need of love, of comfort, of humor, of attention, and using your big heart and your nimble mind, you have filled it. You create joy and peace wherever you go, Aaron, using your profound understanding to aid your fellow humans. The most we could ever wish for you is that the world treats you just the same.



Shaeli Elizabeth Young

Shaeli, you have faced many challenges in your life, and you are using them to make you stronger every day. Your focus, your intelligence, and your hard work will ensure your success. You prove every day that reinvention is not only possible, but it can be truly liberating. We wish you nothing but the best that life has to offer.





For access to these and
more pictures, email:
sallen@opusd.org

Oak View High School

5701 E. Conifer St.
Oak Park, CA 91377

Phone: (818)735-3217
Fax: (818)735-3290
E-mail: sallen@oakparkusd.org

**Respect,
Resilience,
Responsibility**

