

# Class History

First, I would like to congratulate the Class of 2014 on making it this far. I am very proud to be representing you as the salutatorian. As such, it is my duty to tell you, family and friends, a little bit about this wonderfully boisterous class which I call family. However, before I start my telling of the class history, I would first like to thank all of y'all for being here as we, the Richard Winn Academy Class of 2014, celebrate this momentous occasion. Teachers, thank you so much, and I cannot believe I am saying this, for the challenging work and all of those assignments, which let's face it, we didn't do until the night before. Coaches, thank you for all the extra laps during practices and all of the "one more time's" that never seemed to end. Thank you, administrators for keeping us in line and making sure we were always in the right classroom. Thank you, Dr. Coleman, for your encouraging 10 minute phone calls in the middle of class, which often gave us a well needed break from our strenuous studies. Finally, thank you, parents, for the car rides, late night proof readings, last minute store runs for projects, and for just being there when we needed you. We may be going out on our own, but we still need you, especially when the bank account is running low.

In preparation for this speech, I found out that Richard Winn Academy is a very unique school - unique, in the fact that, of all the YouTube videos of salutatorian speeches that I watched, none do it quite like we do. So basically, that was one major resource I could not use. I asked for advice from friends, and I think the best advice I got was from Carson (which is saying something). She said, "Just hurry up and write it, and don't be mean about anything."

Well, here it goes.

As many of you know, this class has a reputation for aggravation. Just ask Mrs. Missy or Mrs. McDonald who have been working to get us out of here; they will be quick to let you know. However, I am proud to be a member of this class, annoying or not. So let's get down to the roots of the problem, shall we?

It all started in three-year-old kindergarten. There are four here today that were part of the original class of 2014.

First is **Jason** "George Bush is my Hero" **Branham**. He is a guy of very few words, which makes one wonder what he is thinking behind that coy smile he often wears. He likes a good laugh, though, often at someone else's expense. Trust me, I would know.

Next is **Anna** "Stop it Joseph!" **Cooke**. That phrase was quite often heard this past year. For those that do not know, Anna and Joseph have been inseparable for the past four years. Nonetheless, Anna is headstrong and quite good at arguing with teachers, just ask Miss Trammell or Mr. Westall.

Third is **Austin** "I Never Win at Uno" **Knox**. Let me tell you folks, I cannot count the number of Uno games we played on the senior ski trip, but we had to just keep playing one more for him. What he lacks in card skills, however, he makes up for in athletic ability playing football and baseball.

To round up that class is **Alex** "The Thinker" **Scott**. Just like the sculpture he is large, solid, and always pondering a new thought.

Now moving on to K-4, only two were added to first group that year, but what an addition they were!

**Austin** "I'm a Boy Scout and I can do anything" **Costenbader** adds humor to every situation. You never know what he is going to say next, but there is always a great chance it will make you laugh and wonder how one could think of such things. He is also

up for trying anything new; y'all should ask him about the clover he tried at the bonfire this past weekend. Then you have **Will** "I Can Fix Anything" **Rosborough**. He is so often eager to tell everyone about yet another vehicle, whether land or water, he has purchased. He is the "Redneck" of the class in every sense of the word, and really shows it when he talks about his racing lawnmowers.

Another year down and we still have more to add. In K-5 we increased our numbers by four, myself included.

**Levi** "I Only Wear Carhartts" **Davis** seems like an ever consistent person in his dress and appearance. However, he shocked us all with his hairstyle that made us think he was sick with the "Bieber Fever." Nevertheless, he is able to handle change well, as he did this past year, and will to continue to do so as he goes to Coastal Carolina.

**Victoria** "I ask a lot of questions" **Durham** is calm and collected. She knows what she wants with her future after she graduates from Lander University. Of course, she first has to graduate tonight (I'm pretty sure she has that in the bag) and then endure four strenuous years of study for her degree, but other than that, she's got it.

**Mason** "Hey Coach Pitt, Where's My Burger?" **Gibbons** adds to our class a sense of artistry in the form of music. Unquestionably, many would say he is also a superb actor, on and off the basketball court. In first grade **Anna Grey** "Birds Are My Enemy" **Walters** joined our already diverse class. She is spirited, lively, and maybe a just touch on the eccentric side.

Two very important girls joined this class in second grade (not that any of the other members of our class aren't just as important), but I have reason to be biased.

**Carson** "Is Korea a Country?" **Justice** brought to our class a zest for life and strong athleticism. She often says what is on her mind, which in turn, often gets her into trouble. I will miss her dearly as she goes to Newberry College next year, but I know she will do well.

**Alexa** "I Run This Show" **Karoly** is the valedictorian of the Class of 2014. Most believe that she is composed and serene. However, they should see her when she is sleep-deprived or just plain angry; she's like a whole other person.

In the 3rd and 5th grades we procured two Chester girls.

**Sarah Grier** "I Think a Rolex Is a Car" **Thompson** being the first. If you're talking blonde, she's your gal. She is a music fanatic, especially when you're speaking of Lana Del Ray or Ellie Goulding.

**Lauren** "I Don't Think I'm Talking Loud Enough" **Faust** came in 5th grade. She is what one would call the "mouth of the South". She is full of all sorts of information and supplies the class with hours of entertainment. I wonder who she'll amuse when she goes to USC-Lancaster this fall.

Our class was reaching maximum capacity in 6th grade when we added three more guys.

**Josh** "Call Me for a Gig" **Ellisor** is another music lover in the class. He is a master on the drums and often likes to hear a good joke. Also, he is the one person in the class that is actually paler than me.

**Patrick** "Oh Wait, I'm Never Wrong" **Pope** is what I would call a people person. He brings to the class assertiveness and a unique smile. Once in 7th grade when we were creating sentences with vocabulary words (*affair* being the vocabulary word here), he blurted out, "I had an affair with my brother!" Let's just

say he was a little more reserved in that class that statement.

**Brian** "I Fly to My Football Games" **Steed** has his head in the clouds, literally. However, he'll come back down to earth for a while when he attends the Citadel this fall.

Seventh grade was a new year for us with changes and yet again three new students. **Samantha** "I Beat All the Guys at Halo" **Blair** is the artistic lady. She is also very patient, especially when she tried to teach me how to play video games which didn't work out so well on my part. Then there is **Joseph** "BI-LO is My Man" **Goldin** is your man. He's often willing to show off his pectoral muscles he gained thanks to Coach which gets a laugh out of the class. He also sings a "lovely" rendition of Adele's "Set Fire to the Rain", which I'm sure he'll perform for us at the ceremony.

In the summer of 2013 **Casey** "I Put Ketchup on Everything" **Self**, along with Lauren, discovered love, for the London Eye and Big Ben. She discovered that even though the Brits use ketchup with everything, it doesn't mean it tastes better.

As this speech comes towards its close, we approach the final two classmates whom we acquired last year. **Amanda** "I'm Always Late" **Mitchell** also attended the England, Ireland, and Wales trip. I found out a reliable source that she was characteristically late for every check in during the excursion. At least she made it to graduate with us tonight. (You were there, right?)

**Hampton** "Chicken Legs" **Caughman** is quite an interesting guy. I am sad to say, however, that I know little about him other than the obvious fact that he has the skinniest legs in the class, and his running is a bit awkward. Nevertheless, his gait does not affect his admiration for hunting and fishing.

Lastly I include myself, and in case you didn't know my name is **Sarah Coleman**. As mentioned earlier, I was one of the four that joined the RWA in 5th grade. I am sarcastic and can get sunburned in 10 minutes. This fall I will be following family to (Sorry, Dad) and attending Clemson University.

We have all been together for at least two to three years. We've laughed, we've cried, we've seen some teachers into retirement; we've blossomed, we've matured, and now we say goodbye. But just as I say goodbye before I step off my soap box. First is a quote by Bette Resse. She said "If you think you are too small to be effective, you have never been inside a mosquito," which proves that everyone is important something if you put your mind to it. I also have another quote, and Cassidy, this especially for you dear. Aaron Sorkin once said, "You're going to fall down, but the world doesn't care how many times you fall down, as long as it's one fewer than the numbers of times you get back up." I hope you all succeed in life. There will be failures and hardships but do not let that dominate your life and your goals. As we depart tonight we will spread the word wide, and who knows when we will be back together. However, the words of Carrie Underwood ring in my mind when she said,

"I will see you again, whoa whoa,  
This is not where it ends,  
I will carry you with me  
Til I see you again"

Thank you and congratulations, Class of 2014