

# Goodbye School, Hello Summer!

- Joanna Rosen

Well, we made it. No more papers due tomorrow, no more cramming for the next test. No more freaking out about your grade on the latest assignment. It's finally summer. Of course there's still that gigantic heap of summer work we have to do before September 2, 2014...but let's not think about that just yet.

To those of you who graduated this year I'd just like to say congratulations. You made it through four years of high school and that is a huge achievement. All that work has gotten you here—to the beginning of the rest of your life. If you loved high school, hopefully you'll experience that same sense of community wherever you're headed. If you hated high school, I hope you'll find an environment in which you are happy. But either way, you are done with this chapter of your life. So good luck guys. Keep in mind that wherever you go and whatever you do, you represent us Headers back home; make us proud!

And to the class of 2015, I'm just going to say hang in there. This next year may not be as academically exhausting as this past one was, but it is equally important. Think about it: we have friends here who—after graduation—we may never see again. We have teachers we'll miss and teachers we'll be relieved to say goodbye to. After our senior year, we'll go off to college, or abroad, or we'll take a gap year or maybe just jump right into the outside world. In Marblehead, we live in a bubble. But once we leave, there's no looking back. Enjoy this last year with your classmates and friends because it's all we have left. Take a moment once in a while to observe what you experience here. We've got one more year left. Let's make it our best.

And now we get to the class of 2016. Good luck next year. Trust me, you'll need it. Junior year is full of stress and insanity. You have the SATs and ACTs—if you haven't taken them already. If you hadn't already, you have to start freaking out about every last grade—because you know, college is right around the corner and if you get a B- on that project that's due tomorrow your dream school is never going to accept you. Just kidding. They won't care if you got a B- on a single project, but the way my classmates have completely lost their minds over a tiny letter, you might be convinced that they would care. If you catch yourself freaking out over a grade, just take a deep breath and ask yourself: “Will I even remember this in five years? Or ten?” If the answer to this question is “No,” then you should probably just take a chill pill and relax. Yes, grades are important. No, they are not more important than your sanity. And that's the main thing you need to remember throughout your junior year. Good luck.

I haven't forgotten about the freshmen. Class of 2017, you guys are going to need some amazing luck too. But sophomore year is nowhere near as impossible as junior year. Enjoy yourselves; focus on making connections with people. If there's one thing I regret most about my sophomore year, it was being too scared to talk to anyone. Open up to people and you'll feel more confident, I swear. Have fun and enjoy your next three years at MHS!

No matter what grade you're going into next fall, you should be proud of yourself for getting through this past year. We've worked hard this year and we all deserve a wonderful, relaxing summer.

See you guys next year!

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