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## Class of 2016 earns diplomas

Hundreds of North Pocono seniors had a once-in-a-lifetime experience on Friday June 3<sup>rd</sup> – the moment when they don their graduation regalia and look towards their futures.

As students look toward higher education, the armed services or joining the workforce.

The students, clothed in red and white gowns, were joined on one side and behind them by the teachers who saw to their education.

The ceremony started off with the classic processional song, “Pomp and Circumstance” as performed by the school band. The National Anthem was sung by Katelyn Davis, Dominique Sgobba and Alexander Nebraska.

The invocation was led by The Reverend Earl P. Trygar, Rector at St. Mark's Episcopal Church

There were a number of speeches to both inspire the students and give them perspective on their four years of high school.

“Move forward knowing your foundation is strong,” said Principal Ron Collins. “As you have always done, continue to conduct yourself in a manner that will make your NP family proud. After tonight it's time to move forward and make your life, outstanding!”

Salutatorian Joshua Toth opened his welcome address with a quote from psychiatrist Thomas Szasz: “People often say that this or that person has not yet found himself. But the self is not something one finds, it is something one creates.”

Toth asked the students to reflect on their years at the school, and their familiarity and humor regarding the silent study halls in the auditorium and the mysterious 3<sup>rd</sup> floor storage closets.

“Yes,” added Toth. “in North Pocono's halls and classrooms, we've all forged friendships, succeeded and failed, gone through good times and bad.”

Valedictorian Kyle Yatsonsky looked at the student's impact on their community.

“Together we are a truly extraordinary group, comprised of talented musicians, artists and actors, stellar athletes, hardworking students and dedicated volunteers,” said Yatsonsky. “We are overall goodhearted people who form a tightly knit community, never hesitant to lend a helping hand to lift each other up.”

Yatsonsky listed a number of accomplishments, academically and in extracurricular activities. He mentioned the Science Olympiad team placing first for three years. He talked about community involvement, in the form of providing over \$5,000 worth of gifts for needy children during the holidays.

Yatsonsky also talked about the hard work put forward by the athletes, such as the baseball team who got the gold in the district playoffs.

Superintendent Bryan McGraw and President of the Board of Education Scott Keating presented the diplomas.

The ceremony was not all pomp and circumstance, as the students rode an imaginary rollercoaster before the conclusion of the ceremony.

The applause was thunderous after the turning of the tassels, as the young adults transitioned from high school students to adults ready to take on the world.



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