

Salutatorian Adress
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School Board members, Mr. Colbert, Mr. Merrill, parents and relatives, and fellow graduates. Did you ever set your sights on a star a way up there and try reach out and grab hold of it. Not literally but figuratively.

In this world that we live in today there is the continual cry of "Make this world a better place." If we are to make this world a better place we cannot do it with a mad rush with everything and everyone going helter skelter, and this way and that. Before a housebuilder puts a shovel into the ground he has in his hands a detailed blueprint of the final product. The blueprint governs all his decisions. Before the diamond cutter makes that final cut on a diamond he has studied the problem out and knows exactly what he is doing.

If we are to do anything in this life and do it well, we need an idea, a blueprint, a plan of action, a finished product in mind—or in other words we need a goal.

An individual who hasn't consciously selected his goals is not really in control of his own life. He is controlled. Without really knowing it, he is controlled by goals imposed by outside pressures such as the expectations of others or by habits such as procrastination or by desires such as the longing to be honored and admired and so on.

Many people set goals. They make resolutions, plan the future, promise themselves that they will do certain things. But not all people achieve their goals. Some become distracted some forget their resolutions, some get "out of the mood" to do what they had decided

In selecting goals in our own lives we must consider things in the order of their importance. We cannot run before we can walk, we cannot do calculus before we can do algebra, we cannot read or write before we learn the alphabet. It is far better to win successes in the little things and then

move on to the bigger things, than to select impressive and high sounding but unrealistic goals and end up feeling frustrated and dejected. A thousand mile journey begins with a single step.

In Life magazine a few years ago there was an article on a man who when he was still in his early teens sat down and wrote down a bunch of goals that he wanted to achieve in life. Some were little goals but most were those that would require much hard work and time. A few examples are: that he wanted to be an Eagle Scout, he wanted to climb a certain high mountain, he wanted to learn to fly a plane. He achieved these goals and some 60 more that he had set.

This does not mean that we have to set lots of hard to achieve goals it is used to illustrate the point that we can achieve the goals we set out to do.

So when you set your sights upon a star a way up there and try to reach out and grab it. Do not feel terrible and broken-hearted if you cannot quite reach it after giving it all that you have. Be glad and proud that you came as far as you did.

If you do reach that star, do not be contented to sit and rest on your laurels and look down at all the stars below which are not as bright as the one that you have reached but look above you at the brighter stars and set your sights upon them and start out anew. Reach out for still greater heights. A very famous person has said: If you are not progressing in this life then you are regressing.

No matter who you be; a parent, a grandparent, a teacher, a teenager, a graduate this day, or if you are just somebody, if we will all set our sights high and take care of ourselves and rely upon our God, who watches over us all, this world will become a better place.