

# **Graduation Speech**

**By: Jesus Vargas**

**(My dad said if I fall on stage that he would give me \$100, has other kids done this?)**

Good Morning Ladies and Gentleman, Friends, Family, Faculty, and My Fellow Classmates of the Class of 2024. Before I begin, I just want to start off and say this: Today is OUR day. Our day to celebrate the accomplishment of making it past another Chapter in our life. And today is only the Beginning of all of our journeys! (Opener)

I'm grateful to be up here, alive, to be telling my story of the things I've overcome. September 2022 was the start of the scariest 2 years of my life. I was forced to quit my job because of how much school I was missing. The reason for that: I was constantly getting sick, I had no time for myself, and I was just stressed out all the time.

Over time my stomach couldn't take it anymore and my health started to decline. I weighed 150 pounds and in a span of 4-6 months I was down to 105 pounds. Almost every morning I would wake up feeling lightheaded and about to pass out. My parents were more freaked out about it than I was, because I kept telling myself "it will be fine and it will go away."

There was a point when I realized my health was no joke – my parents were thinking the worst possible scenarios and the doctors couldn't figure out what was wrong with me. I was prescribed a few different types of medicines and most would work very little or not at all. (When I was sick)

After overcoming those two challenging years I finally found the right medicine and I emerged on the other side – I was healthier and stronger. But then I found myself at another crossroads. Unknowing of what lay ahead and where I was going, I felt lost, like a certain someone that we all know who doesn't know what they want to eat. Oh wait, that sounds like me, Then it all switched!

I remember the day vividly: it was December 14, 2023. On this day, I was mindlessly scrolling on my phone and then there was this voice in my head. It told me to stop wasting my life and to switch up my act. This little spark in my head turned into a fire of desire, Which shifted my entire mindset. I needed to stop poisoning my mind, scrolling countless hours on social media, Playing Video Games, and being jealous of what everyone else had.

It was time to take action to get what I want with my life.

(Stop Wasting time)

We, human beings, have so many things to overcome as we move forward. It doesn't stop and it will never stop. We've already overcome so much - and what I have realized is that you can't let anything or anyone hold you back!

Right now I'm up here, in front of this big audience of beautiful and amazing people, and I am overcoming one of my biggest fears of Public Speaking.

Yes! Of Course, I'm nervous and afraid. Even though I studied this speech over 100+ times, you can clearly see the shaking!

I've seen the reality, and it is all about developing a mindset to view life from a different perspective. I am here to tell all of you to be grateful for every opportunity that comes your way, despite how scary the opportunity may seem. *So what if you fail?*

Don't look at it as a failure. Take that so-called "failure" and use it as a learning experience so you can do better next time, because "Failure Builds Success."

I've failed many times, and I've had to take a step back to analyze, to see what I can do better. Like with my business, when I first built my website, It was too much reading and it was boring. So I went back through to make it more simple and more appealing and it is better.

It wasn't the biggest failure I've had, but it was still an experience that I had to overcome. But If anything seems impossible, think about it like this "If someone else can do it, why

can't you?" or "If I died tomorrow, would I be happy with the life I was pursuing? (How You Can Stop Wasting Time)

After that experience of me being sick, I realized that "Life Is Too Short", because I was bumping a Hip Hop Artist named Too \$hort.

Now, every day, I force myself to not waste a second of my day, doing anything irrelevant and be positive in every situation. Because It is up to us and only us, to build ourselves, to be a better version of what we were the day before.

You have to be the Wizard, and not Believe in the wizard. You have to take action to be the person you want to be. Not hoping and believing it will come to you.

That's the wizard, and that's the reason why everyday I'm leveling up my character to be 1% better than the day before. And I challenge you all to do the same thing. I challenge you to learn new things, work on a business you have dreamed of creating, be nice to everyone, reflect on what you can do to improve the situation that seemed to fail the first time, and the list goes on.

I'm telling you this because I want you to do this for yourself, what I've started doing daily; Find someone that inspires you, like I've found and Use this speech as motivation, empower yourself to be the person you have dreamt of! (Becomes a Habit to Stop

Wasting Time)

I learned no matter what I do with my life, I know I will be judged or criticized for my actions. But really, I don't care because the only real person who can judge me is GOD.

I'm thankful for waking up everyday and having someone that I can rely on everyday, to guide me to do wonderful and amazing things.

I'm here for a reason. Our family's Beautiful Angels provides me with Strength, Wisdom, and Discipline to get through everyday and every challenge. I notice finding God is the best decision someone could ever make. It has helped me in many ways to overcome obstacles in my life that I have been afraid of and not wanting to go after.

The Lord makes me get off my lazy butt, to conquer these amazing opportunities, instead of just thinking about them.

Because every blessing is a call to action.

Just like today, I appreciate everyone who took the call to action to be here to celebrate their loved ones' success. I want to thank all my family members, especially my parents and my brother for believing in me on this journey of growing my own business and working to lead others.

Thank you to all my friends that haven't held me back or distracted me from doing what I want and understand the importance of my goals.

I want to thank God for making me the man I am today and taking the mask off enemies that were acting like my friends.

I want to thank all the beautiful faces that I saw walking into school despite our relationship. I wish you all the best and god bless all of you. But most importantly thank you to the teachers at R-5 for being amazing and down to earth people; thank you for teaching us real world things: Like how to find ourselves & be

ourselves, be smart with the decisions we make, and teach us things that other schools wouldn't teach. (Giving Thanks)

So, I will leave you with this quote: "Your identity emerges out of your habits, every action is a vote for the type of person you wish to become." - James Clear.

Class of 2024: if you can promise me one thing all I want you to do is remember this message. "Take your time. Fight the Laziness and Fight the Arrogance, to allow your inner emotions to succeed. Everyone is special in their own way. Find what you truly desire and take action!" Have a great day Everyone and celebrate today like it's your last – you all deserve it!

P.S. R-5 if you allow me too in a few years, I would love to be back with an empowering speech for all the teachers and students telling them the importance of following their dreams and how to build elements of success in their own way.

(Personal Message/ Closer)

Juice Box OUT!



