

## 44 cross stage as newest HHS grads

Written by Chris Lee

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Sunday, May 13 was a special day in Holyoke as 44 Holyoke High School seniors crossed the stage in the gymnasium to receive their high school diplomas. Equally as special, mothers all around the United States were celebrating Mother's Day.

In Holyoke, graduating seniors had the chance to celebrate with friends and family as they became the newest graduates of HHS.

Adorned in black robes, the class of 2012 along with their family and guests were welcomed by Supt. Bret Miles.

Austin Killin was recognized as the class valedictorian. Killin addressed the crowd and began by an observation. He noted how much power his class has had over the years and how it has been refined.

"So what is this power we have? For one, we have the power of camaraderie," Killin said. "Yes, after today, some of us may not see each other for a very long time. However, camaraderie is much more than a simple everyday friendship. It is a bond that we share throughout life."

Killin went on to say the other type of power the class has is the power of opportunity. "This power is the power to do whatever we want when we grow up."

"We are in the presence of future lawyers, doctors and farmers," Killin said. He also took a moment to recognize three of his classmates who have chosen to enter the military. He asked the crowd to join him in applause for Parker Redfern, Broc Pelle and Matt Wittman who will all enter the service later this year.

"So as we go out into the world, we must remember what awesome power we have," Killin said. "It is said a butterfly flapping its wings on one continent can cause a storm on another. In the same way, each of our actions can have effects with extents unknown. We must keep this in mind with every decision we make, with every road we take. We must make the most of every

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opportunity we have, because it is there for a reason. This opportunity that we have been given today carries tremendous power.”



### **Valedictorian Austin Killin**

Killin’s classmate, Whitney Redman, was selected class salutatorian. She looked back on some memories and thoughts about the future.

“As many of you know, our class is rambunctious, loud and sometimes even annoying,” Redman said. “We are hard headed, crazy and ridiculous, but despite our personalities, we are the future.”

“Wherever our paths may take us, I know that one day we will all look fondly back at the memories we made here, whether it be getting soccer, football, kickball, four-square and even the playground taken away from us in elementary school. Or maybe the boys in body paint cheering on the Dragons at the home games, to even racing down the halls in swivel chairs.

“However, today is not the day to look back on the memories, today is a day that we start a new chapter in our lives and look forward to the future, whatever that may be.”

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