



Emily Jarrett/Democrat

Sacred Heart High School senior Bradley O'Connor gets a little help from his mother, Diana, before the school's graduation ceremony on Sunday. The Class of 2012 had 38 graduates.

Most Viewed Stories

Sacred Heart Class of 2012 urged to remember its roots

May 21, 2012 12:40 AM

By Emily Jarrett

Sedalia Democrat

Remember where you come from.

That was the advice given Sunday to the seniors of Sacred Heart High School by commencement speaker Jim Wanserski, himself a 1970 graduate of the school.

During Sunday's ceremony, 38 seniors received their diplomas and for most, it was a bittersweet time. Many had been together since kindergarten, pointed out salutatorian Jared Dey.

"We're like a big family here, we've known each other forever, so it's going to be weird not seeing everyone every day," Dey said.

"A lot of us are going to different schools, but I know we'll keep in touch. It seems like we've been preparing for graduation for so long and now it's finally here."

During her valedictorian speech, Claire Fischer told her fellow seniors they would never be truly separated because of the memories and education received at Sacred Heart.

"We're about to embark on the journey of a lifetime and yes, it will be scary, but it will also be one of the most fulfilling and exciting journeys of our lives," she said.

“Sacred Heart gave us the knowledge and skills to make a difference; our teachers held us to a higher standard and gave us the opportunity to grow and spread our wings. The decisions we make during the next part of our lives will define us, and I know we’ll have the faith and perseverance to make positive changes in the world.”

Fischer said next year while at the University of Missouri-Columbia, she would rely on the sense of community she had at Sacred Heart.

“We’re a small school, but together we’ve been through everything,” she said. “I plan on bringing that sense of family and togetherness with me when I leave for school.”

Wanserski added to Fischer’s theme of remembering family, noting that family, faith and Sacred Heart formed what he called his core values.

“When I left Sacred Heart I took that core with me and it has never left,” he told the graduates. “I would ask you, when you come across the big decisions in your life, to ask yourself, ‘Will this keep me on the path to be the best version of who I am?’ ”

Wanserski also challenged the students to get ready to fail because it would happen sooner or later. “You have to keep on your path, keep up your resolve, keep on keepin’ on.”

At the end of his speech Wanserski thanked the students’ families and reminded the graduates to keep striving to make them proud.

“If I can tell you nothing else, don’t worry about where you might go, just remember where you come from,” Wanserski said.

“Remember your friends, your family, your classmates. Go and make yourselves, and them, proud.”