

# In the {End}



Page Gómez '14



Ryan Latcham '14



Evan Cunningham '14



Jesse Dallas '14



Brittini Wyma '14



128  
Michael Hoffstetter

**NO ORDINARY TIME** Classmates and assembled guests, "This is no ordinary time." Eleanor Roosevelt delivered those words in 1940, but they apply today just as well.

We've grown up in an era of upheaval and distress.

We were just days into kindergarten when the 9/11 attacks took place. And so at five or six years old, we witnessed the nation and the world change. Soon enough, the U.S. was fighting wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and our classmates were effected directly when family and friends were deployed. We witnessed countless natural disasters both far and close to home -- hurricanes, tsunamis, tornadoes, fires and floods.. We saw the economy collapse, and families struggle with job loss and financial distress. And close to home, we all grieved when we lost our classmate and friend Lindsey.

But though engulfed by crises, we kept going, doing what was expected of us ... and what we expected of ourselves. We went to class – usually... And turned in our assignments – most of the time... We agonized over essays, deadlines and decisions... We practiced, performed and competed. But there were plenty of diversions.

Harry Potter. Twitter. Snapchat. Netflix. They all grew up as we did.

But there was work for us in the real world too. We held a variety of jobs, some of us working with customers, some with animals, with children, the elderly. Some of us as caregivers for others, some even for our own families. We volunteered at church, in the community, in political campaigns. We gave support and comfort to those in need. And sometimes, we even acted as role models for those around us.

We are now poised to make a difference in a much broader sense, but given the extraordinary time in which we live, expectations are high ... since there's a lot in the world that calls for change.

Most of us know that change can be scary. Do you remember walking into your first day of kindergarten, or even worse, your first day of fifth grade... or ninth? But fear isn't always a bad thing. As Eleanor Roosevelt said, "You gain strength, courage, and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face."

Grinnell High School has had a history of remarkable alumni who have paved the way for us. When you leave the gym today, take a look at the plaques and photos outside the auditorium commemorating the Grinnell High School graduates who changed the world. These were no ordinary people. Claude Ahrens ... Harry Hopkins ... Hallie Flanagan... Robert Noyce... and others.

Bob Noyce is best known as co-inventor of the integrated circuit and co-founder of Intel. He was the father of Silicon Valley and helped to launch what became the information revolution. At about the same time Eleanor Roosevelt was describing the era as extraordinary, Bob Noyce was a 12 year old in Grinnell, well known for his boyhood adventures, curiosity and inventive spirit. Bob and his friend designed and built a plane out of pine boards – a glider with an 18 foot wingspan. They tested the plane, first on the ground, running and jumping for some lift... next they hitched it to a car bumper and drove it down Park Street, trying for speed and more lift. Even though that didn't work so well, the kids moved on... intent on flying and thinking that the roof of a nearby barn at Merrill Park might provide a good launching pad. Noyce climbed to the barn roof, later admitting that his one goal was to come out alive. He attached himself to the 25 pound glider – and he jumped. Noyce hit the ground almost immediately, but on his way there, got in a second or two of flying. He later wrote in his Grinnell College admission essay that "we did it."

You know, we did it too. We've come a long since the fall of 2001. We've looked fear in the face and persisted. We've done the things that needed to get done... even though we didn't have the luxury of living in an ordinary time. When you stop and look fear in the face, you realize something important, Mrs. Roosevelt said: "I can take the next thing that comes along."

So as we leave Grinnell High School, we face a world in desperate need of change. But with strength, courage and confidence, there's no doubt we can make that change happen. When you look at that display that includes the photos of Bob Noyce and his fellow Grinnell High School Hall of Famers, you'll see that there's room for more. I think the question for us is not whether one of us will fill a space on that wall, but how many spaces we will fill.

This is no ordinary time, and the class of 2014 is no ordinary class.

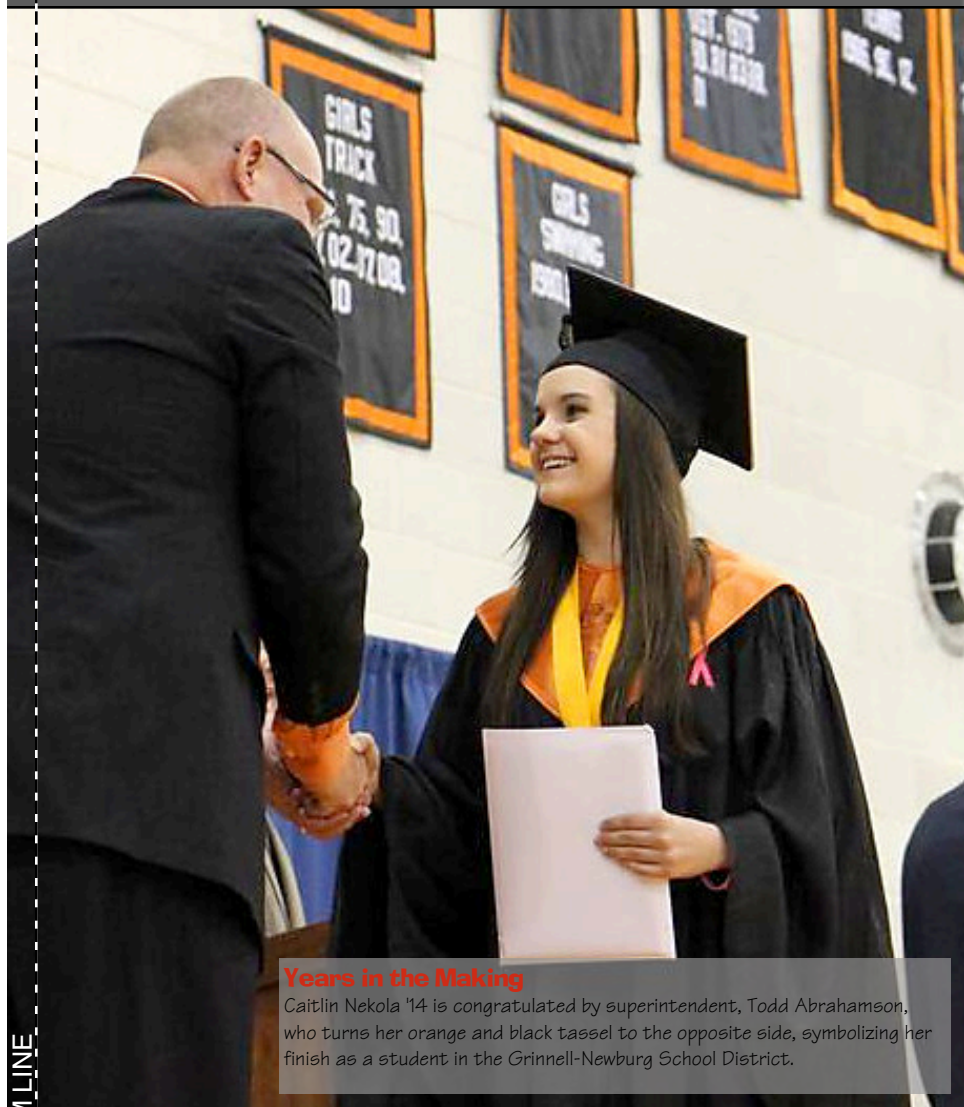
-Katherine Menner '14

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TRIM LINE

TRIM LINE





**Years in the Making**

Caitlin Nekola '14 is congratulated by superintendent, Todd Abrahamson, who turns her orange and black tassel to the opposite side, symbolizing her finish as a student in the Grinnell-Newburg School District.

**Reminiscing**

Hannah Grabinski '14 opens the ceremony with words of wisdom for her class and shares fond memories of their past together.

**We Out!**

Alyssa Lloyd '14 is found with a big smile upon her face after receiving her diploma from the administration.



**A Closing Chapter**

After 13 years of hard work and determination, the seniors finally hear Mr. Seney say "I give you the graduated class of 2014." With enthusiasm, the students "whoot" and "holler" as they congratulate one another.

**1: Your Turn** Nerves and excitement are common feelings when your name gets called. Josephine Spaur '14 proudly walks on stage to receive her diploma from Mr. Smith. Meanwhile, the audience erupts with applause and congratulations.



**2: Finally Done** Superintendent Abrahamson greets Chloe Current '14 with a handshake and smile as he places their tassel on the opposite side of the cap, symbolizing that she is finally a graduate.



**3: Hard Work Pays Off** There is no greater feeling for Chance Winburn '14 than knowing that all his time and efforts of the last 13 school years has paid off.



**4: Congratulations** After all the graduating Seniors walk across the stage and receive their diploma's, Mr. Seney announces to them with great pride, "You made it!"

