

Guest Speaker - Matt Lambert (former KHS student)

Matt Lambert is a former student at Kamo High School and he took time out of his busy schedule to speak to our senior assembly on Thursday to share some of his life lessons that he has learnt over his journey to becoming one of the Directors at Amazon Web Services, the cloud computing part of Amazon.com.

He shared with students his 10 tips he wished he knew when he was at Kamo High School:

The first tip: Become a good writer

- Being a good writer is essential no matter what line of work you go into.
- Knowing the rules of the road, and understanding grammar, is essential to becoming a good writer.
- Take English as a subject, pay attention in English classes, and embrace it as a discipline. Good writing isn't hard, it just takes practice.

Second tip: Read good writing

- Reading is an incredibly easy way to continue to grow your knowledge and improve your writing.
- If you read bad writing you won't feed your brain what it needs for you to be successful.
- Embrace reading. Always seek the opportunity to read something, even if it is as simple as a story in the local newspaper.

Third tip: Seek out viewpoints other than your own

- Don't live in an echo chamber. Become a truth seeker. It will help you understand how other people may think or feel and help you to develop empathy for others points of view.
- Having empathy is an important part of being a successful leader.
- Great leaders seek the truth and the truth can only be found when looking everywhere.

Fourth tip: Embrace failure

- You will always remember more from your losses than your wins.
- If you are failing it means you are innovating, if you are failing it means you are experimenting. Without failure there can be no success.
- Failure is an opportunity to learn and grow. Through learning and growing we develop better products, we develop better businesses, and we become better people.

Fifth tip: Do both

- Great companies always do both.

- Great life experiences come not from choosing just one path, they come from doing both.
- Stop looking at life as a tradeoff between two binary options and take the path that allows you to do both and you too will be great.

Sixth tip: Get a life's philosophy

- Having a philosophy helps to give you a North Star.
- Something to always aim towards, the lens through which you view the world, and the rubric through which you can make decisions in life.
- Having life's philosophy will help you in your decision making, interpersonal relationships, and to be a better person.

Seventh tip: Write lists

- When you have a great idea, write it down, put it in a list.
- Writing a list is a good exercise that can help you get focused on what you need to be successful.
- Writing lists is something that seems super simple but is incredibly powerful.

Eighth tip: Practice more than you play

- Look at any great artist or sports person and you will find they practice far more than they play.
- It is the same for anything in life, including school work and business, you need to practice more than you play.
- It is important to find time to practice. Don't get distracted by bright shiny objects, focus on finding time to practice and keep that time precious.

Ninth tip: Love all the people

- You should be nice to everyone you meet. You never know when you will run into them in the future and may need them.
- There are so many interesting, inspiring people in the world you should spend your life getting to know them and learning from them.
- We only have one life so why spend it at war with other people when we can share this amazing planet together and all learn and grow.

The tenth and final tip: Think long term

- Learn to love five day test cricket—the game isn't over until the last session on the last day.
- The issues you think are so insurmountable today are really no more than a pebble on the road that is your life if you are thinking long term.
- When you think long term you look at life and business much differently

Thank you Matt for taking time to speak to our students and we wish you a safe journey back to Seattle.