

2016 MOVING ON CEREMONY SPEECH

BY HANNAH O'CONNOR

Welcome, family and friends, teachers and staff, to the Moving on Ceremony for the class of 2020 eighth graders. I am honored to be standing before you, as we celebrate the end of our journey through middle school, and the beginning of a new chapter in our lives. As we walk the halls of this school together for the last time, there is much to be remembered and celebrated.

Together, as an eighth grade class, we have stood hand in hand together, united in our journey. I have had, as I am sure all of you have had, many wonderful memories with the 2020 class. All of you have played a role in making my life so richly memorable, and as I recollect the memories we have shared with each other, I will forever do it with a smile on my face, and love for all of you in my heart. All of us have grown immensely over the course of kindergarten to our last year of middle school. Today we celebrate the inexperienced toddlers we started out as, and the young individuals we have become. The memories we have created together are ones that will forever live on in my heart. From the Friday night football games to the fiercely competitive kickball tournament, to the ferocious basketball tournament, we as an eighth grade class have enjoyed each and every moment to the fullest.

The successes that I have cherished throughout my three years of middle school at JGMS would not have been possible without the continuous support and aide from my teachers. As said by an unknown person, “‘Come to the edge’, I said. ‘No, we’re afraid’. ‘Come to the edge’. ‘No..we’re afraid. We’ll fall’. ‘Come to the edge’, I said again. And they came. And I pushed them. And they flew.” I would like to thank all of my middle school teachers, who have constantly helped push me further down the path of education that we as students all walk on, who helped me come to the edge, who pushed me, and ensured my flight. Despite the bad hair days, the days when I took forty minutes to get up out of bed, each and every teacher I encountered produced

phenomenal classes and helped me achieve desired results. I would like to recognize Mr. Casey for his hard work and dedication to me and my successes throughout this school year. He understood and empathized the struggles of middle school, and encouraged all eighth graders throughout their journeys to the conclusion of the year. I would also like to thank Mrs. Stephens for her constant support and encouragement as I pursued successes in writing, poetry and public speaking. It is with great pride that I can voice my joy over my vast improvement this year, and I would like to thank Mrs. Stephens for her constant and continued efforts to help me strive to be my best, and pushed me to realize my true potential. In addition, thank you to each and every eighth grade teacher, all of whom have, from the start, been nothing short of spectacular.

It is with great pride and joy that I acknowledge the graduation of the 2020 class, as we soar to greater heights, beyond the horizon line to which we have been confined. Let us face the challenges, seize the victories, accept the losses, know the mistakes, and live in the moment. *Carpe al dium*. Let us seize the day, together. For the unknown, which we will soon walk into, is not to be feared, but only to be embraced and understood.

Thank you, and congratulations to all graduating eighth graders!