

Class of 2018 Valedictorian Speech

As we spend our final moments together at St. Brendan, let us not forget the journey we have all made, and the memories that we have shared. Before I begin, on behalf of my class, I would like to thank all of the faculty and staff at St. Brendan, the parents, the coaches, the volunteers, and the community surrounding this school for molding us into the people we are today. From Fr. Tom to Fr. Terry to Deacon Bob to Sister Judy to Miss Onacila and all the faculty and staff, we are truly thankful for giving us the chance to excel in our aspirations. Also, thank you to my family, friends, and God for giving me the chance to achieve my goals.

I have learned to be appreciative and accepting of all opportunities that have been presented to me during my time here at St Brendan. I appreciate everything that has happened to me, good or bad that has shaped me into the person I am today. Even though I may not believe all of the things that we have been taught are of any value, such as how the Pythagorean theorem and how it could possibly relate to an everyday job, I am sure it is still worth knowing. We will be forever grateful to have had the privilege of attending a Catholic school. We have been blessed by the priests who baptized us, the teachers who have taught us almost everything we know, to our families and parents who packed our lunches, drove us to school, signed permission slips, supported us, drove us to sporting events, and gave us the never-ending memories that have been made here by paying our tuition. Our relationship with God and all those in our school community have been deepened over the years. All aspects of the environment of St. Brendan have made learning a more enjoyable task, which is not an easy thing to do. Whether it be Mr. Schlitter making a quadratic formula song in his basement at night so he wouldn't wake his wife up or teachers making analogies to help us understand a subject better. This unique class has given me some of

the most unforgettable memories of my life. Many of those memories were made between our Kindergarten through 3rd grade years. After St. Richard joined us in 4th grade and then Kevin and Mireya joined us in 8th, our class expanded, bonded, became closer and made even more memories. We can never forget our field trips (DC, Cedar Point, The Zoo, Crushers and Rubber Ducks games and many more) or the plays we have performed in (Peter Pan, The Girl with the Golden Locks, and Robin Hood), or the CYO teams we have participated in, even if our basketball team didn't have the best of luck. We will remember the end of the day discussions, the classes we talked through, and the other countless memories we have made. We have so many things and people to be thankful for and we should hold them to high regard so we will never forget the memories made here.

I know that throughout high school and beyond, we will use the foundation that St. Brendan's laid for us. We should go to Mass Sunday after Sunday, and no, Fr. Tom did not tell me to say that. We need to stay strong in our faith throughout our lives. We need to stay strong in our relationship with God no matter what happens, learn from our successes and failures, learn from the mistakes we have made and set our goals high and never stop chasing them. No matter the circumstance, know that there is always an accepting community here for you. We need to continue to stay in touch and get together throughout high school and beyond, so the bonds we have made are never broken. High school may be tough, but as long as we continue to try our hardest, we will flourish.

This class is full of 22 unique brothers and sisters who will become future mothers and fathers, wives and husbands, college graduates, engineers, mechanics, priests, religious and any other possibilities that may come our way. Move fearlessly throughout your life, not just in your upcoming high school experience, but in every aspect of life. I suggest we pray for and give thanks

to all who have helped us to get to where we are. I pray we continue to be as close as we are as a class. It has been an honor to be a part of this excellent group of individuals, St. Brendan Class of 2018. I wish everyone the best going forward in whatever you do and may God bless you all.

Thank You.