

Graduation Speech

It's been four mere years since I arrived at this school on a frosty Monday, December the 18th to be precise, and it already feels like I have spent half of my life living in the United States, among all of you. My family, my teachers, my friends, they have been with me the whole way through somehow, guiding me, entertaining me, challenging me, but all for the same purpose, to prepare me for this trip, a trip that in some ways I have to take by myself, if I wish to get the most out of it.

As I prepare for arguably the most dynamic and intriguing summer of my life, I hope that all the preparation for the long journey has not been in vain, and that if whenever problems or challenges arise, I will be more than able to look for a solution. Unlike other previous summers, this summer will be filled with time for relaxation, a time to think about what I can expect to live through for the next four years at Rose-Hulman, my college of choice. Relaxation is just part of it; I expect to do some service for my community, help around the house, and keep learning for my long year ahead. It all becomes a part into one of the biggest lesson I learned at Meadow Montessori: how to share what you know.

No matter how wise or how much you think you know, if you don't know how to share that with other people, in what other way will you be able to use your knowledge? Learning is intrinsic to any human being, but more essential is how to properly use it. Through teachers we get knowledge, but teacher are not the only one that have a duty to distribute information across; everyone is involved in this process.

Learning is an everyday process, achieved through experience, whether it is directly or indirectly; learning how to love comes from the one that gives you love, like your family and friends; learning how to respect comes from those that have suffered disrespect and abuse, but were strong enough not to use the same attitude back; learning how to overcome obstacles comes from those who failed consistently, but managed to succeed in the end. All kinds of learning come from different kinds of people, but they all serve one main purpose: to teach how to coexist and improve the world by adding small pieces of learning, to make a vast collection for you to use throughout your life. Like my speech class at MCCC said once to the class: "It's incredible how much we can learn from each, without even realizing it".

My last year at MMS was characterized by more dynamism in classes both from the community college and school itself, the broader range of learning such as the new community service trip the high school students participated in when they went into Belize, and more independence in classrooms, in order to see how well organized we were, as well as how responsible. Another eye-opening experience was my "Start Something New", which was a way in which I could practice how to share what I had learned throughout these four years. It was one of the most uncomfortable situations, since I was nervous and somewhat oblivious to what I was supposed to do! My goal became to educate students in how to properly approach the application process, and what they could do early on to prepare for this important experience in life. At first it was hard to speak and how to convey a proper message, but with practice and support from other speakers, I was able to make a better job than I expected.

I have learned what I know today through my mother, my father, my teachers, all my friends, and even I learned from myself through all I have been thru ever since I arrived the United States. While there are still some aspects of this culture I cannot quite comprehend, I see how much this culture has impacted the way I am, such as developing more confidence and strength. As the day I must separate grows closer, I cannot lie but to admit that I do fear what's for me in the horizon, but I can also be certain of another one: that whatever I may expect and fear, I will be able to conquer, just like many other challenges. I am ready to prepare for my career as a biomedical engineer at Rose-Hulman, and to prepare for the inevitable independence I will gain from here on. I am also awaiting the opportunity to work at Dartmouth College next summer, not only for the money, which is not that much anyway, but mostly to get acquainted with a working experience necessary for the outside world. I believe in how preparing for today can lead you to accomplish both your and other individuals goals in the future, and on that note I end with this simple quote by Malcolm X, "The future belongs for those who prepare for it today."

Thank you