

Hello my name is **Ryan Steilen**, and I am currently a senior at Frederica Academy and a member of the National Honor Society.

Every National Honor Society member is supposed to exemplify scholarship in their community, but what is scholarship?

When I moved this island six years ago, I had the choice to enroll at the public school in Brunswick or the independent school on Saint Simons Island: our very own Frederica Academy. Obviously, I chose Frederica, and I haven't looked back since.

While Frederica may be more rigorous than people can handle at times, and may have some unpopular rules, it was the right choice for me. It was the right choice for me because I walk through this campus and see a positive learning environment, teachers willing to help, and I see scholarship. Not only in the National Honor Society, not only in the classroom, but I see students everyday who have worked just as hard in the classroom as on the football field to earn an education.

You would think you would get tired of seeing the same small group of people every day but not at this school. Not when those same people you see have similar attitudes about learning. And I'm certain this year's inductees have that same attitude.

Our future inductees of the National Honor Society sitting in the audience today are about to be given a special opportunity on behalf of Frederica Academy and our community. Take that opportunity. Give back what you owe to this school and your community. Be an influence because next year's class is watching. Be a scholar like Frederica Academy has taught you, and exceed expectations.

Thank you for your attention.