

Welcome- everyone to this middle school graduation

I am your valedictorian, Zoey Wilson and I had a hard time writing this speech. Then I realized that I was overthinking it and decided to start fresh.

I've learned some things in the past few years such as writer's block is the worst, physical science isn't my strong suit (sorry Mrs. Roelfs) and that language arts is harder than one thinks, personally anyway. However I worked through it and ended up where I am now. No more tests or note taking or homework- not until next school year anyway. Though none of this would be possible if it weren't for my teachers persistence in educating me and their kindness to help when I needed it. (Though I seldom admitted that I needed it.) And of course it wouldn't be possible without my Mom and Nanny for sending me to BCA and supporting me in education, faith and art. I was told that this was the time for me to thank everyone, so here I go-

To Mr. Streufert who taught me that history is fun to listen to and that algebra isn't really that difficult after you get the hang of it. To Mrs. Meitzner who always gave me something new to think about and a new outlook daily- whether it was through journals or a good book. Also thank you for the goldfish when you came to visit me in the hospital.

To Mrs. Roelfs, though science may not have been my strongest suit this year you still made it interesting for me to learn.

To Mr. Patrick and Mr. Meitzner, who were the coolest subs a class could ever have. Also thank you to all the teachers that I had before at BCA. They all had a part in my faith and education.

To Mrs. Pam, you have always been there for me at school. If I needed to talk about something or go hang out in your office for a little while I could. You know everyone by name, it' amazing.

And finally to Mrs. Cardillo, you are so very kind and I'll miss giving you hugs. But i promise all of you-I'll visit sometime.

I enjoyed being a chapel buddy to younger kids as I enjoyed when I was young...except for the germs. (snot, slobber,ugh.)

My classmates are pretty cool too. There may not be many of us but we are quite different from one another. It's great because you get to see different perspectives on things, different ideas, and let's face it- would you want to be sitting in a room where everyone's just like you? No? That's what I thought. We always gave each other something to chuckle and shake our heads about. We have made memories that will last a lifetime or at least maybe a few years as we make new ones.

BCA may be a small school but it has been like a family to me for 10 years. That's not something that you can get with a large school or something that's easy to let go. It's going to be hard for me and I know it's going to be hard for some others to move on and go to a whole new school. I'm going to miss it here.

Of course it wasn't just family, friends, teachers and staff who helped me. God has been here with me- with us- every step of the way. Even if we don't always see him.

Pastor Sheets, Pastor Pingel, Mr. Streufert and Pastor Busher have all taught me religion. They have taught me about God and raised me in faith. I can't forget about Pastor Mark and Vicar Michael though. They came to visit me when I was still in ICU and they stayed late with me and prayed with me during that.

God never left my side through any of that.

I look forward to the future and hope that my classmates are looking forward and preparing too. I wish them the best of luck in their next school year's to do well and stay strong in faith.

And I'm going to leave off with my confirmation verse

*"If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast."*

Psalm 139: 9-10

Danke/thank you