

Senior Speech - by Marlo

at The Hiland Hall Graduation on June 7, 2024

The other day it just hit me that I'm actually graduating this year, and that's just crazy to me. It's not that I haven't learned anything, it's just that I feel like it was just yesterday when I was in North Group trying to prove to Nancy that I am "in fact ready to read *Harry Potter*". Or that I was playing in big blocks the year before I even started, but no, today I am graduating. I've learned so much from the Hiland Hall School, it taught me how to make friends, talk to anyone, use my imagination, and follow my interests.

Speaking of Nancy I'm now going to thank my fabulous teachers, present and past. First off is Ethan. Even though I never was in school with him, one of my first Hiland Hall school memories is going to his house with my family and having a sword fight with his daughters with pool noodles in the kitchen when their mom was trying to cook dinner. I think this story reminds me of why I love the Hiland Hall School, the teachers are always engaged and happy to talk about their personal life and even include you in them.

Next up is Nancy, I would like to thank Nancy for putting up with six-year-old me in math, even then I hated it. She was always kind and taught me my basic math skills which I'm eternally grateful for. I remember we used to go to her studio and make pottery. With her help, I made a bowl which I made to look like a bunch of pebbles held together that I still have. I'd like to thank her for teaching me that step counting isn't really that hard.

Ani was only my teacher for a little bit, but I do remember all the fun games we'd play in Spanish, like BINGO, and the songs we'd sing. I remember we did a performance of head, shoulders, knees, and toes for South Group.

Then there's Alida, who was my main teacher for two years. She was always kind and showed me how to generally act in school. She was a very good first main teacher who was very good with the North Groupers.

Of course, I have to thank Jessica for teaching me so much. When I was in the North Group I decided I wanted to learn French, after asking why I wanted to, she said yes. Then in middle school, she helped with my exceptional organization and this year she started to learn Greek with me. I want to thank her for sparking my passion for languages. She's taught me so much and has always let me explore something I'm interested in. Thank Jessica for helping a ducky.

I remember when Quena came in for the first time, when they were still interviewing for a teaching position. The first thing I thought was, " Oh she's definitely the best for the job" " She has always been helpful and is always up for an adventure, like when she decided to do the South Group Camping Trip. She is an amazing math teacher and finds ways to make math fun. Thank you for always being up for a hike and canoe and for teaching me so much.

I'd like to thank Brennan for being the best middle school teacher, and for having the best stories. He can always be sidetracked into some story about his adventures in a different country, like when he got robbed in Spain which is one of my personal favorites. He also knows how to teach different kinds of things from history to art. Thanks for making middle school great and always making learning fun.

Now I'd like to thank my fellow seniors, there's so many of us this year. I'm thanking you in the order of years they've been here so Weslyn is first. I'd like to thank Weslyn for being here at school with me for the full nine years and giving me so many fun memories of playing witches

in the tunnels, making flower crowns, big blocks of course and for being one of the kindest people I've ever met.

Next I'd like to thank Matthew for being extremely witty and being an amazing map maker and for putting his all into his acting for the play, who else would fall from a step stool so dramatically. I also want to thank him for always being able to debate on whatever topic we are talking about while not making it difficult to have a conversation with him.

Tai and Camden both came in the same year, but since Tai is older he's going first (Sorry Camden) . Thank you Tai for always bringing humor into any situation and for being inclusive with everyone in the big games, especially the younger ones who I know appreciate it. I also thank you for trying your best in everything you do.

Last but not least is Camden, who I would like to thank for being so patient and extremely helpful in whatever we are doing. He also has the patience to help me with math which is not an easy task seeing as I get frustrated very easily when it comes to math.

Now it's time for me to thank my family and very close friends who I haven't already mentioned. I want to thank my family for always supporting me in my artistic endeavors and for helping me with homework. Also for getting me through school at home and making it extremely fun, so fun that I actually miss it a little bit. Thank you for starting my love for nature and hiking and for taking me out of school on my birthday to go on fun days. For my friends who are gone from the Hiland Hall School and for those who are still here, thank you for always being there for me and for giving me a bunch of fun times. Also for doing stupid and fun things that no one else would do.

My great senior advice is, one learn how to spell senior correctly by your senior year, because a. Brennan will give you a hard time and b. Because writing this speech without

remembering how to spell senior is awful. My second piece of advice is do the fun projects that the teachers plan, like bubbles and mothers day cards because they always end up being super fun. Third is to make the best of your time and be happy in whatever group your in, like when your in North Group all you want to do is be and South Group and when your in South Group you want to be in Middle school, just don't rush through your time, waiting for the next group, have fun.

This goodbye is so hard which proves how special this school is. A lot of kids would be happy to leave their schools but I love this place, from the tunnels to the people who teach here. One thing that makes this goodbye easier is I know I can always come back to visit and be welcomed. As Forrest Gump said "Mama always said life was like a box of chocolates you never know what you're going to get" Thank you Hiland Hall School and my family for making sure I get an extra sweet box.