

2009 Graduation Address

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As I thought about my address for our 5th Wolf School graduation, I thought a great deal about the seven of you and what you embody as a group. In addition, I reflected upon the first 10 years of the Wolf School. What hit me was the following — this class — your class — both as individuals and as a group — have a good deal in common with the first 10 years of the Wolf School...

The tenants that the school was founded on are the following:

Vision: Vision is defined as a vivid picture created by the imagination, a dream, and a focus on tomorrow. The act of anticipating that which will come to be

10 years ago the founding Board members created a vision for a new school that would meet the un-met needs of complex learners

As graduates — you have an individual vision for your life in high school — you have imagined what it will be like for you, what it will mean for you — you are ready to leave and your focus is on tomorrow

Discovery: Discovery is defined as something to find out — to see or learn for the first time — an exploration...

When Wolf began 10 years ago, the founders hoped that this would be a school where children could discover their strengths and talents.

As graduates, you have clearly done this — in the classroom, in Theatre Arts, in music, in sports, in the art room or in the community — and we have had the privilege of observing your discoveries and we celebrate them with you.

Collaboration: Collaboration is defined as working with others in a partnership or through teamwork.

The foundation of Wolf is team collaboration — the model was developed by a team — and over the 10 years — your teachers have worked together and collaborated daily, weekly and monthly to figure out how best to teach you

As graduates — you have collaborated as Teammates — in the classroom or on the court — you have learned how to be a good teammate, you rely on each other and support each other — and it defines you as a class

Dedication: Dedication is defined as focus and hard work — commitment — whole

heartedness...

Without the focus and hard work of many people here at Wolf and those in the community supporting us in the beginning and over the years — we would not be celebrating our 10th year or realized our original vision — to be a school with 50 students, in our own building, with a beautiful gym or to build our new middle school wing.

As graduates — your dedication and perseverance has helped you learn to read, to learn and internalize strategies that will help you succeed or get through the tough times and the challenges, and there will be challenges...

Creativity: Creativity is defined as the ability to bring into being — to produce imagination or to inspire.

Our model evolved from the creativity of a few who dreamed that the school would help children find their creative voice...

As graduates — you are artists, musicians, actors, lyricists, woodworkers, chefs and writers — what a creative group.

Confidence: Confidence is defined as having faith. A belief in one self — and a belief in something...

We built this school because we had faith in the model, and you came here because your parents had faith in us

And you as graduates have clearly developed faith in yourselves and it has been wonderful to witness -you have developed confidence in your abilities as individuals and as students.

And lastly...

Achievement: Achievement is defined as that brought about by effort — something that is successfully completed.

Our collective achievement is you-and your achievement is attending the high school of your choice.

So not only do you embody the tenants we were founded on — but you live our mission a place where children can be successful learners and discover their strengths and talents and you reflect our growth

As a school we have grown slowly and steadily — 5 years at the JCC where 4 of you started and 5 years here -where three of you joined us.

And lastly what you as a graduating class have in common with the first 10 years of the Wolf school is the following:

We have a unique model — and you are unique individuals...

We have stay true to ourselves, and you stay true to yourselves everyday...

We have persevered and grown and you have persevered -whether it was when learning to read, learning to make friends, or learning to trust...

We know without a doubt — that you will continue to grow and evolve and become successful adults.

We also know that what we have in common will keep us forever connected...

As you move on to the next phase of your life, our hopes and dreams for you are that your dedication, creativity and confidence helps you discover and achieve your hopes and dreams.

You will no longer be part of the fabric of our daily lives and we will no longer be part of yours; but what you have learned here, and what we have learned from you will forever remain in our hearts and in our minds.