

Nina

Good evening.

I can't believe that we are already graduating from eighth grade. It's crazy! It seems like just yesterday I was standing in line, outside the back of Milne Grove, waiting to go inside for my first day of kindergarten with Mrs. Adams. Time sure does fly by! Like many other people up here on the stage with me, I have made many amazing memories during my time at Milne and Kelvin Grove that I will always remember.

At Milne Grove, I remember having fun in Mrs. Draper's gym class dancing to choreographed Kidz Bop music and then showing my parents our dance moves at family dance night. At Kelvin Grove, we enjoyed lots of clubs, band, and sports. My personal favorites were Art Club with Mrs. Cravens, Yearbook Club with Mrs. Stateman, playing basketball with Miss A, running hurdles in track, playing setter and outside in volleyball and the outfield in softball.

I want to say thank you to all our teachers, club sponsors, and coaches from MG and KG. You guys made our school years fun, busy and enjoyable. I also want to thank my parents and all the parents out there that tried their best to get us to and from school everyday, picked us up from our activities after school, and went to our games and/or meets at home or away. Thank you so very much.

I am super lucky to be the youngest in my family. My sister and brother have been on this same graduation stage and made the same step from Kelvin Grove to Lockport High School. They both found new friends and kept old ones, tried new things and familiar ones. There is something for everyone. Their advice to me that I am sharing with all of you is - from day 1 of freshman year, get involved! I promise you, it will make all the difference in your four years of high school.

I will never forget my grade school experiences and challenges such as learning to write cursive on a zoom lesson because of COVID, learning how to open a locker with a combination, or walking from music class to Mr. Burdette's room before the bell, but the time has come for us to move on to the next experience and challenge in our school journey - high school. Each of us have probably been asked so many times, "Are you ready to graduate from 8th grade and go to high school?" When asked this question, I was always hesitant to answer because I would be leaving the school district that I've been in for so long. It seems pretty scary; however, at the same time I am excited to see what will happen next, and where life takes me and my classmates. I know we will all succeed and do great things.

I have a feeling that we will all be fine. I hope that the nervousness that I am feeling, and I know others are feeling as well, might just be excitement. I want to thank all of you for riding this amazing middle school roller coaster with me, but before our ride ends, and we start the next one, let's cherish and enjoy our graduation tonight and our half day tomorrow. Before we know it, we will be walking through the doors of Highschool, and I can't wait to see you all there.