

# THE COMMUNITY SCHOOL



**Salma Ruiz-Cruz**  
**End of the Year Ceremony**  
**June 9, 2019**

Good afternoon everyone. My name is Salma Ruiz-Cruz and I'm a sophomore, rising Junior. I'm from Mexico. When I was just a baby, my mother brought me into this wonderful country to help me get a better future. What I mean by that is if I would have stayed in Mexico, I would probably be getting a low education and working at a young age. Don't get me wrong, I love my country, but I'm glad I had the opportunity to be in the U.S. Thank you mom and dad for putting so much hard work toward my education. My father works long hard hours as a construction worker, and when he

comes back home, he has to take care of my brother and I. We are a handful. My mother wakes up early to work, also as a construction worker, in Washington D.C. and then comes home very tired. I thank both of you guys. Gracias, papa y mama por todo el trabajo duro que pusiste para que yo conseguir una educación tan buena. Los amo abos.

This year has been a rollercoaster for me personally. I didn't know what to expect from it. I wasn't a freshman anymore; I was a sophomore. I had to step up my game to be a good example for the freshmen class. I think I did a good job. The sophomore class gained a new sophomore this year, Tyleiah. We both went to the same middle school and let me tell you, we did not get along so well, but this year, it all changed. She supports me and I'm grateful that she came into the school and is now my classmate. I'm very proud of my sophomore class for their hard work they put in this year and I'm happy that we all are going to be juniors next year. Estoy muy orgullosa de mi clase de segundo año por el trabajo duro que hicieron este año y estoy feliz de que todos tengamos que ser juniors el próximo año. I love you guys.

The school gave me lots of opportunities to meet so many amazing people and visit cool places. We had great conversations with people who came in and taught us so many important helpful life lessons for us to use in the future. We were honored to get to meet people who are in our local and state government and even got to see our new city council president get sworn in. The school doesn't just teach us what the textbooks say, but they bring the lessons to life for us to help us have a better understanding of the material. That's something that makes this school so unique.

This year would have not been possible without all of the hard work from the people who made us delicious food, all of the nice people who donated money to the school, all of those who

came in for a conversation, and our great staff members who put in time to teach us and keep the school running. We appreciate everyone who has taken time out of your day to provide for us.

This is where I get emotional. Donald Lacy and Jordan Leon, you guys have been such wonderful classmates and best friends. In my first year in the school, I remember that Donald gave me my books and helped me get settled in. He was always helpful towards everyone. As the days went past, Donald and I got closer and became best friends. He's become like a big brother that I can go to if I need help with anything. He would listen and try his best to help you. We made so many fun memories outside and inside the school. Thank you, Donald.

Jordan, all I remember my first year is that you did not seem to like me. This year, I don't know what happened. We became closer and started hanging out outside of school. This year, you have been very helpful when I get stressed. I'm glad we were able to become best friends. Thank you, Jordan.

You both have been very helpful not just towards me but to everyone in the school. They both have been such great help in the school. They cared for the staff members in the school. They would go out of their way to help in any way to make the school better. You have been great examples and role models for the rest of us coming up behind you. Thank you. Congratulations to you both and good luck out there in the real world. We love you guys so much.

Gracias de nuevo TCS por un gran año. Estoy tan bendecida de estar en una escuela como esta. Los amo a todos. Gracias.

Thank you again TCS for such a great year. I am super grateful to be in a school like this.

Thank you.