

THE COMMUNITY SCHOOL



Sara Harris
End of Year Ceremony
June 9, 2019

Hello everyone, I'm Sara, a member of the junior class this past year in The Community School. I can't believe that I am going to be a senior and that I have made it this far. My junior year has definitely been one of the best ones yet. I have seen so many new places and learned so much. The knowledge I have gained is unmatched with any school. I hope I speak correctly for my fellow rising Seniors in saying that we have had an overall great year.

I have watched all of my fellow students grow - freshman, sophomores, juniors and seniors. I feel like a completely different person from the one I was in my first year. There were so many places we went – the Baltimore Symphony, Center Stage, the National Aquarium, Annapolis, and so many more. This was a year full of great experiences.

One example is when the government class went to City Hall on the night that Brandon Scott was nominated for Baltimore City Council President, and we got to be in the Ceremonial Room where he was sworn in. The City Council even recognized us and the work of The Community School. Councilwoman Mary Pat Clarke took us on a memorable tour of City Hall. She is an amazing teacher, an amazing tour guide, and a very amazing legislator.

Another great trip was when we went to Black Classic Press. Not only did we get to speak directly with the founder Paul Coates, but he also took us on a behind the scenes tour showing us how books are created, laid out, and printed in mass quantities. We even got to make our own little book with pictures and each of us got to take one home.

Many people have also come to us for our "Conversation with..." series. We have had two state delegates speak with us, a former TCS student who is now a police detective and filmmaker John Waters along with so many more. All of them gave us many wise tips on life and some inspiring points that show us we can do anything we put our minds to doing.

This year has not all been peaches and cream. We each have had to deal with tragedies and challenges. Recently, I lost my Uncle, and just like the great man he is, Mr. Tom was right there to comfort and support me. All of my classmates were very supportive and I thank you all. Mr. Tom, you are an amazing man. We love you Mr. Tom and we wish you a happy and healthy

year. You've always been there for me and everyone else, thank you for always being someone we can rely on.

I can't forget the teacher who started the same year my fellow juniors did. Thank you so much Mr. Noah, you have grown me in so many ways, and you have helped all of my classmates. You have helped me become a better writer as well as a better person. Thank you so much Mr. Noah, we are glad that you are a teacher here and so thankful for it too.

My classmates and I are so thankful to have found this school and that Mr. Tom and everyone else has accepted us into the TCS family.

My fellow students, I would like to thank you all and congratulate you all. We have all made it another year. You are all some very dedicated and hardworking students. I have watched all of you grow in many ways and it has been my honor to work with you. I look forward to seeing you all next year and I look forward to all of the great memories we will add together.

On behalf of my classmates, I want to thank our families and sponsors. So many people help us get to this point, but I don't think I could have made it to where I am now without my amazing father. He has always been there. Every day and every night of my life he has been there. He has never hesitated to step in to my rescue. Nor has he ever shied away in defending me. He has always celebrated my wins, and helped me through my losses. He is my rock that stands firm throughout this storm called life. I hope I have made you proud dad. I thank you for everything you have done for me and everything you have done for the school. I love you dad.

Donald and Jordan, congratulations on making it through high school! The school will not be the same without you two as students. You light up any room that you are in. You both inspire us in so many ways. You both have been great examples as you've pushed through the rough times you have had, and you both have been great role models of gratitude, appreciating what you have. It gives us great pride to be able to follow in your footsteps. We will definitely miss you both in class. We have ended this year on a "Glorious" note, as Jordan would say, and we look forward to seeing you both around the school next year.

Next year is going to be another great year. With new faces that will be joining us and old faces that we will come to know better, it will be another amazing year. No year is exactly the same as the one before. I learned this from experience and from a very wise teacher I have. I hope everyone has an amazing summer. Don't forget your habits or the Honor Code to all of us returning students. I hope I see you throughout the summer, and I look forward to seeing you all in September. Thank you.