

## **Commencement Remarks**

**May 26, 2023**

**Jayant Talwar**

Good morning faculty, staff, friends, family, guardians, and the class of 2023,  
I'd like to start off by handing out thank you notes to everyone in the class - you all deserve it:)

Gratitude is important. Alright now that that is done,  
for the past couple of days, I've been looking over everyone's chapels from this year. I'm going to share a handful of quotes - about twenty - from my peers' chapel talks that encapsulate the wisdom I heard this year. Unfortunately, I can't share the wonderful words of everyone in this ceremony, but I want you to know that I looked through each and every text and found something remarkable in all of them. I invite you to find at least one quote that resonates with you. And so here it goes (in no particular order):

1. "You will NEVER be the best. Among the eight billion people in the world, there will always be someone more skilled, someone with cooler ideas, someone faster, someone stronger, someone who learned it better, someone... "better". But here is another fact. You don't need to be the best." (Alicia)
2. "I realized during this time that locksmithing is actually like solving a puzzle blindfolded. All you can rely on is the small click of a pin, and the difference in pressure you feel as the pins bind into place to tell you that you are headed in the right direction." (Will Turner)
3. "Fear is a fascinating thing. It is one of the most natural, powerful, and primitive human emotions." (Kelyn)
4. "Every door has a key, and every problem has a solution, but sometimes the solution is to let it be." (Brennan)
5. "Next to my bedroom door, I have a small sign that says, 'Today will be awesome!'" (Ben)
6. "Throw yourself into things you're so passionate about, you can spend hours on them and they don't feel like work, even if things aren't always smooth-sailing." (Serena)

7. “It’s not the destination, it’s the journey that matters. What’s often going to happen is that you won’t accomplish your dreams. Yes, your dreams won’t come true...[pause] something greater will.” (Sam Lu)
8. “It doesn’t matter if your socks match.” (Liam)
9. “In hindsight, I realize that my experiences and moves, however difficult at the time, are a privilege. My experiences are what make me, me. And I am grateful for the perspectives they offer.” (Svava)
10. “Life isn’t about surviving in the storm. It’s about dancing in the rain.” (Emma)
11. “If you don’t pull up a weed from the root, it’ll just continue to grow back and consume your garden until you eventually do. Treat yourself like a garden!” (Gigi)
12. It was at this very moment the headmaster imparted to me the advice that would change my life forever. He casually leaned over and whispered in my ear, ‘son... keep moving.’” (Will Gladstone)
13. “There will be hard roads coming up ahead, but don't worry because everything that has happened in your life so far has already prepared you for it, so just enjoy living every day.” (Jerry)
14. “You’ll miss out on a lot if you live in fear of change. After all, change is the only constant in life.” (Ashton)
15. “If something isn’t fun, make it fun.” (Alex)
16. “Like a summer sunset drive with every window down, the sunroof too, those rides are made special by the people in the car, the ones along for the ride with you.” (Charlie Badger)
17. “Plus, there is so much beauty and joy in imperfections. In the cracks of the pavement where flowers grow and in misshapen fruit and scribbly handwriting and crooked teeth and little kids learning to ride bicycles.” (Mia)
18. “If you are honest, people may deceive you. Be honest anyway. If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfishness. Be kind anyway. All the good you do today will be forgotten by others tomorrow. Do good anyway.” (Charlie Seston)

*[Pause]*

To CA's Faculty and Staff: Words cannot express our gratitude for each one of you - you all have already changed this world, and changed our world.

And finally, to the Class of 2023: Congratulations you all! It's truly been an honor serving as your Student Head of School for the past year. I love you all very much.

Alright, and in classical Jay fashion, we are going to end with a poem.

“Wow look at how time flies,  
It seems like just yesterday that I was the size of French fries,  
But now I'm a bit more tall and a bit more wise,  
My endless gratitude goes to CA and all of you guys,  
It's been a blast to poetize.”

I hope we can now enjoy some time to reflect together during a musical interlude by Concord Academy's Chorus - thank you. {selfie?}