

Valedictorian Speech – Jingyi San

Hello everyone, my name is Jingyi Sang, and I am honored to be the valedictorian of the class of 2022.

I would like to thank the administration, teachers, boarding staff members, and students for making the past four years wonderful. I would like to personally thank my family for their support, Ms. Bly for her help on my SAT, Mr. Grieving for all of our insightful conversations, Ms. Harris for her love and effort towards math club, Coach Heyl for his conundrums, Ms. Huebner for her excellent teaching in chemistry, Ms. Walden for her literature recommendations, and all the teachers for teaching me.

I would like you all to know that in this speech I will give no advice. There are many other people who can provide better advice--people who are older, more educated, and more experienced than I. I don't feel it would be worth your time to hear the ruminations of a teenager about your future. Maybe when I'm old and, hopefully, rich and famous, I'll be worthy of giving advice.

Life is incredibly precious, but we often don't realize how quickly it passes by while we are waiting for something to occur. We often say: I can relax after this exam, I can rest after the SAT, I can take a vacation after the finals, and I can play video games all night after the application results come out. This waiting seems to be never-ending, and our youth quietly slips by as time elapses. As you all know, these types of experiences will not stop just because we are graduating high school. We will still be taking exams, we will still be applying for internships and opportunities in college, and many of us will be studying for the GRE in a few years, more time waiting that will comprise our lives. Despite all of these intervals that take up our time, we need to understand that our lives are happening now and they are more than just the minutiae that occupy each day.

Furthermore, because life is so precious, I don't want you to waste it in hesitation. Many times we hesitate when the odds are not in our favor. We may compromise on the possible outcomes to settle for a safer return. Since we only live our lives once, why not aim for the stars, and should we fail, at least we can be satisfied with the idea that we always gave our best efforts. So class of 2022, make the most of your time, I wish you all the best.