

Patrick Davis
Invocation Speech

Mr. Caldwell, Mr. Ranger, trustees, faculty, parents, friends, and special friends, good morning and welcome.

When asked to reflect on my time here at MBS, the first thing that comes to my mind is five year old me. A not so little kid, who was ready to play organized tee ball, and more specifically, hit the ball far. I had grown up watching hitters like Alex Rodriguez and David Ortiz hit the ball way over the outfielder's heads, so naturally that's what I wanted to do. When I finally got my opportunity to step up to the plate, I grabbed my helmet, and my bat, and I was ready to impersonate what I had seen on TV so many times before.

With the ball placed perfectly on the tee, I took my swing and watched the ball sail deep into the outfield, right over the center fielder's head. I dropped the bat and began my sprint to first, but as I was rounding the base to head to second a dad put his hands in front of me and said, "You have to stay here! In this league, you can only run one base at a time." I became so deflated. I felt the one thing I had been dreaming about for years, hitting the ball, watching it soar into the outfield, perfecting my home run trot, had just been ripped out of my hands. I wanted so badly to reach my dream, but here was someone telling me I couldn't.

This was the first time I can remember someone putting a limit on what I was able to do. But fast forward to 2011. I arrived at Morristown-Beard ready to grow as a person both inside the classroom and out, just like everyone else sitting on this stage.

This school isn't a place that like that dad puts its hands in front of you and says, "Stop. You can't go any farther". No, this is a place that tells you to just keep on running to get where you want to go. We have been taught from day one here at Morristown-Beard to not accept limits on how far we can run, but instead we have been taught to go farther than we ever thought possible.

So faculty, friends, parents, fight back the tears and begin to smile. Because today is a celebration of the new standards that have been created all thanks to you constant love and support that continuously points to the next base and says, "Just keep going. No one can stop you."