

June 3, 2017
Valedictorian Remarks
Jillian Hubert

Mr. Karsten, Mr. Penikas, members of the Administration, Faculty, Parents, and Class of 2017.

Good morning!

As the last few days of high school dwindled away, I realized something very important.

I recognized that the important lessons came from the numerous track meets, the laughter shared over food during lunch, the retreats at Esopus, and, lastly, the "character" and confidence we discovered within ourselves through the guidance of our mentors.

Our school motto could not give a better representation of Molloy: "not for school but for life."

Over these past four years, we discovered our unique potential. We began to craft our own path for success. And, our idea of success counters society's norm.

Our version of success minimizes materialism and places success where it belongs: in a life of purpose, in a life replete with meaning, character and confidence.

How do we achieve and refine our character and our confidence?

Character.

Although intangible, character carries the weight of our entire being- of our soul and our disposition. There is no final destination, no finish line in the fulfillment of character.

Refining character is an ongoing process. Our character is always being put to the test.

Standing up for what we believe in when the whole world seems to oppose us- is character.

Tending to the sick and the outcasts of society- is character.

Our every act of intricate care and exceptional bravery strengthens our unique character.

Confidence.

With character must come confidence. Confidence is our self-assurance, our inherent self-appreciation. Confidence must be upheld carefully and practiced with purpose.

Taking an exam without glancing at another paper - is confidence.

Trusting our intuition and following our gut- is confidence.

Using our intellect to better society- is confidence.

Genuine confidence is powerful.

It silently fills and calms us and those around us.

Our every act of selfless care and exceptional bravery refines our genuine confidence.

With every act of profound character and genuine confidence,
we each choose to live a life that matters.

We attain the moral values and wisdom from our mentors who have modeled character and confidence. It is now up to us to use these gifts wisely.

As we leave Molloy, we carry more than the words memorized from textbooks.

And even on this special day, we carry more than just a diploma.

We carry memories, empowerment from our teachers, and relationships that will extend far beyond our high school years.

We carry smiles and tears and laughter.

We carry life lessons that will strengthen us along our journeys, as we bridge our past to our future.

So let's all take what we have- both our individual graces and those which Molloy bestowed upon us, and create a life that overflows with both character and confidence.

Our success will defy mere quantification.

Our success will be filled with happiness and contentment rooted in helping others.

We each have the skills and experiences needed to accomplish that.

It is up to us now.

With achievement comes responsibility. The world rests in our hands.

Let's handle it...

With care...

With character...

With confidence.

Congratulations to the Archbishop Molloy class of 2017!

Thank you.