

# **Commencement, June 4, 2023**

## **Remarks by Senior Class President Jena Alam '23**

Welcome, MHS community, distinguished guests, faculty members, parents, and my fellow graduates. It is with great honor and pride that I stand before you today as the Senior Class President. On behalf of the entire senior class, I extend a warm welcome to each and every one of you as we gather here to celebrate the culmination of our high school journey.

As I look out at this sea of familiar faces, I am reminded of the incredible journey we have embarked upon together. We entered this school as uncertain newcomers, with wide eyes and a mix of nerves and excitement. Over the years, we have grown, learned, and thrived, facing numerous challenges and celebrating countless victories. Now, as we prepare to begin a new chapter in our lives, let us take a moment to reflect on the memories we have made and the lessons we have learned.

When I was seven years old, my mother's voice would wake me up for school, and I would find my uniform neatly ironed, books packed, and breakfast waiting for me on the table. Suddenly, somehow, in a blink of an eye, I was a junior, packing my bag to leave home and attend a boarding school in the middle of the Berkshires. The comforting calls of my mother were replaced by blaring alarms, and the familiar uniform transformed into a perplexing decision among the clothes hanging in my dorm room. As for breakfast, it became a forgotten equation, sacrificed for the sake of rushing to class. Now, I find myself speaking in a ceremony for yet again another departure, another change, another milestone.

Within a relatively short span of two years, Miss Hall's became a second home to me — a place where I experienced personal growth and discovered hidden talents. It was here that I learned to take leaps of faith, to find my voice, and to explore new avenues by joining my first sports team, and where I showcased my artistic abilities in my first art show. But above all, I formed friendships with incredible individuals from all around the world and who taught me the true meaning of sisterhood.

To the remarkable Class of 2023, you hold a special place in my heart. As we prepare to leave these halls behind, I implore you to hold onto the cherished memories we've shared. Let us treasure the Senior Trip that brought us closer, the spirited discussions during class meetings, and the silly moments we laughed through while planning the Halls of Horrors. May we forever remember the Senior Show, where we stood on the

balcony, singing our hearts out, and found solace in each other's tears and warmth as we reminisced over our yearbook photos.

In the corridors, let's not forget the little smiles we exchanged, the nods of recognition that bridged the gaps between us. May we hold close every memory of the vibrant hall parties, the laughter that echoed through the walls, and the seemingly insignificant moments shared with friends and peers. This extraordinary community has become a beacon of light and warmth, and it is our privilege to take it with us on our future journeys.

In closing, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to our underclassmen, faculty, staff, and all those who have tirelessly supported us throughout our journey at Miss Hall's. A thank you to my mother, my sisters, my brother-in-law, and my friends for always being my courage. And, to my fellow graduates, as we stand on the precipice of one of the most significant changes in our lives, I encourage you to wholeheartedly embrace every single change that comes your way.

It is natural for changes to sometimes leave us feeling adrift or uncertain. However, let us view these changes as thrilling adventures — an opportunity to explore new paths, uncover hidden potentials, and embark on transformative journeys. In the face of change, push aside any fears, equip yourself with courage and determination, and wholeheartedly embrace the exhilarating expedition that lies ahead. Let us carry the memories and lessons learned at Miss Hall's as a source of strength, inspiration, and guidance as we carve our own paths. Let us carry our sisterhood as a form of encouragement and support as we conquer the opportunities that lie beyond the walls of Miss Hall's.

Class of 2023, I express my sincere congratulations to each and every one of you, and I couldn't be prouder of our accomplishments. Together, we have completed this chapter of our lives, and now, we stand at the threshold of limitless possibilities. With unwavering determination, courageous spirits, and a willingness to take risks, let us embrace the adventure that lies ahead.