

What an MCDS Education Means to Me

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今日来てくださってありがとうございます。四年間前、中学校からそつぎょうをしていた時このようなスピーチをお話しました。でも、もう一同できるか知りませんでした。

Translation: Thank you very much for coming today. Four years ago when I was graduating from middle school, I was asked to be the speaker by my class. However, I never had any idea that I was going to stand here again.

In these past seven years at MCDS, I believe I have had a wide variety of experiences that have prepared me to move forward in my life, but I also believe I have had a continuity to my education that is only possible at a small school such as this. Through my own experiences I have seen that my liberal arts education has served me well: it has completed its goal by giving me a grounding base of knowledge from which I can put new ideas and information in context, as well as the skills I need to learn more from the information presented to me. When I'm at an art museum, reading something about science, conversing in Japanese, or conversing in an art museum about science in Japan, I increasingly find myself noticing the connections that my education has allowed me to draw.

In this school I would say that our classes are in many ways like families; you're stuck with who you get, and you have to make the best of it. You may think that it could not always be enjoyable to be the only guy, "stuck" with three girls, but I never felt stuck. Even when we are vehemently arguing about an idea, or "storming" as we call it, I think the fact that we can then switch back to normal rather quickly shows a level of familiarity which allows us to comfortably develop our ideas with one another. In addition, having the same group of teachers year after year allows for a continuity in the curriculum and in the student-teacher relationships, so that we are able to have more flexibility with the types of questions we ask and with the types of projects in which we engage. It is this flexibility that has allowed each of us to make what we wished of our MCDS education.

There are many more things I could say about my wonderful time here. However, we must move on. I would like to thank all who made this education possible for me and helped me along the way. I would also like to say that, while four years ago I never would have thought that I would be standing here again, I'm so glad that I am.

Thank you.