

14 July 2021

End of School Year Assembly Speech

Good morning, Dear distinguishable Rev. Lui, teachers and my dear fellow students!

Following the tradition of our school, this speech is going to be delivered in English.

Adjusting to the ‘New Normal’, S.5 students are attending the “End of School Year Assembly” in the Hall while students in other forms are joining us in their classroom.

How has the school year been for you so far? Without doubt, this is a special year that has presented us with many challenges. Let us take a trip down memory lane. At the beginning of the school year, there were no face-to-face lessons and all learning took place online. Within the 2-month period between late September and late November, the half-day face-to-face class arrangement was implemented. Shortly after that, with the rising number of confirmed COVID-19 cases, online learning was recommenced for most forms with the exception of the S.6 cohort. In January, we underwent a special 1st term Exam with only one form scheduled to take the exams either in the morning or in the afternoon. Then, in mid-February, after the Chinese New Year holidays, in-class lessons were resumed for two forms. Subsequently, 2 more forms were allowed to attend face-to-face classes after the Easter holidays in mid-April. Finally, in late May, physical classes were fully resumed for all forms. The whole year is like a roller coaster as it has its ups and downs. However, thanks to God’s guidance, we made it through the year in one piece.

This brings me to the introduction of the 3 Rs that can help you through a year of adversities.

The first ‘R’ stands for **Rejoice**. How do we do it? You can start by counting your blessings throughout the year. The word, “Thanksgiving”, appears everywhere in the Bible as with these two Bible verses.

“Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms.” (Psa 95:2)

“And let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare his works with rejoicing.”

(Psa 107:22)

You can thank God for the nice weather, for your supportive parents, for passing the

exams, for having caring teachers and classmates, for having a summer vacation that allows you to take a break from school and do whatever you want to do. In fact, you can thank Him for everything.

Doing something year after year without reflection is absurd and this leads to the second 'R', **Reflect**. Seize the time to reflect upon everything you did in the year and the following questions may guide you through self-reflection.

- 1) How's my academic performance this year? How did I perform in online lessons?
Was my learning attitude positive?
- 2) How's my relationship with family members, classmates and friends?
- 3) How's my relationship with Jesus? Have I developed a close relationship with Him?
Do I rely on Him for everything?
- 4) How's my attitude towards life?
- 5) With this year's school theme, 'In love we care, in God we cheer 2.0', have I connected with my classmates and showed my care for them? Have I used words of encouragement to them on some occasions?

This brings us to the final 'R' – **Restart**. Reflection may trigger sad emotions as it reveals what you have or haven't achieved. But like what Apostle Paul said, "but one thing I do, letting go those things which are past, and stretching out to the things which are before." (Philippians 3:13)

You're advised to keep on reflecting as this restarts the cycle of learning and planning. During your summer break, why don't you set goals for yourself, do some preparatory work for the coming school year and equip yourself with knowledge and skills that can help improve your learning?

Realizing the importance of restarting is crucial to us in particular the fellow S.5 students. To be frank, shout-out to all students in S.5, I have been a bit anxious now and then about your academic performance. While you need to make good use of the summer time to join the summer program, SERP or to do self-revision, do remember that you have 9 days in the summer free from supplementary classes and activities to hit the restart button before the new academic year begins.

I hope that all of you can make use of the 3 Rs – Rejoice, Reflect and Restart – to help you cope with challenges in student life.

Thank you!
Principal