



Farewell Address

Natsuki Tsurumizu

2014 The International Language Course

On behalf of all of the graduates from the International Language Course, I, Natsuki Tsurumizu, would like to convey my deepest gratitude for the memories and the experiences we have had here at Yokohama Hayato High School during the past three years.

We entered Yokohama Hayato High School in 2011. I still remember my first day - nervous and feeling anxiety about starting a new school life with new classmates. I can't believe how much experience and knowledge I gained in three short years. I can say that thanks to my teachers and friends, I had a wonderful time at Hayato.

I lived in America for 14 years and Hayato is the first Japanese school I have ever attended. On the first day of school, I thought that no one could speak English better than me. I heard that there was a speech contest and I entered it because I thought that I could win with my pronunciation. I didn't practice much but I knew that a lot of people in my grade were practicing. They were practicing every day after school with teachers or their friends. On the other hand, I was not practicing and I was playing with friends outside of school. On the day of the speech contest, I didn't win. My friend who wasn't a native speaker got a prize. I thought from then on, it doesn't matter about my English skills or my pronunciation; it is the practice and the feeling of wanting to do my best that matters the most. To get my revenge, I entered the speech contest again in the second grade. This time I practiced hard and I won a lot of outside contests, got first prize at the Hayato Speech Contest, and even went to the All-Japan Churchill Speech Contest. Through the speech contests, the other contestants and I achieved our dreams and in the end the effort was what mattered the most.

My friends made my school life enjoyable and bright. We would help each other when we needed help and accomplish our goals. I would go to my friends when I had troubles or worries, and they would cheer me up. They are like family to me. Even though we are graduating from Hayato, I would like to continue our relationship and continue to support each other to reach our dreams.

Our teachers have also been so important to us. They always looked after us and always supported us when we wanted to challenge ourselves at something new. They also pushed us into gaining new abilities and to discover our dreams. I met one teacher who has changed my life. He was a native English speaking teacher and he helped me with the speech contest. He yelled at me and made me cry, but those tears made me stronger. He helped me win lots of contests and made me a stronger person. I will never forget what he has done for me. Another teacher I respect is a Japanese teacher. He has a husky voice and I thought he was scary at first. But when I got to know him better, he was a really nice teacher who helped me through a lot. He helped me get into a university and he listened to all the troubles I had. I know that the teachers had a really hard time keeping the International Language Course students out of trouble, but I can say that we learned from what the teachers have taught us. I would like to say thank you for helping us grow.

Also I would like to thank all the parents here. Thank you for making us who we are now. Even though I went home late because of school work, my parents would always have a hot meal on the table. They supported everything that we did, and they are special people in our lives. I love you mom.

Finally, I sincerely hope that all of our junior students will benefit as much as we did from their time in high school. Even if there are difficult times ahead, everything will get better, so go and try to accomplish your dreams. I hope that each and every one of you has successful years ahead.

Thank you.

Farewell to the Graduates 2013

Moe Kamura 2-A

Good morning teachers, parents and senior students. My name is Moe Kamura. I am honored to be here on behalf of the Junior Students of the International Language Course at Yokohama Hayato High School to congratulate all the graduates of 2013.

I have a lot of good memories from the past two years with you. First, I would like to praise your great effort in club activities. I know how hard you practiced. Maybe people say that you practice to win or for the prize, but I don't think so. You practiced hard because you liked it, and you loved your team. Your team mates were always there for you so you wanted to win or wanted the prize. How grateful we are to have such precious team mates. This is one of the things you taught me. I have no words to express my gratitude. You took me in the right direction, and I will never forget the time we spent together. We are proud of you, because you got over any kind of difficulty. You may have hardships in your new environment, but don't worry about making mistakes; you are not alone.

Next, I would like to thank you for your leadership in school life on the fourth floor. You, the International Language Course Students, were always full of vigor. It didn't take long to realize that you have a heart of gold and special eyes which can willingly see a person's good points. That got rid of my anxiety about my new school life here. You put my mind at ease.

Also, by watching how you enjoyed your school life with your friends and teachers I could see the best way to enjoy my time here. You passed down the joy of the International Language Course to us, and I really appreciate everything you did. We will miss you. Please remember, as Mr. Mastumoto always says, the International Language Course is a Big Family, so this is not good bye. Whenever you miss us, we are here to welcome you back.

We, the junior students are sure that we will pass down the glorious tradition to the next grade as a token of our thanks to you.

Finally, you are going to step into a new world which is not simple. There are many problems, but please never hide yourself. You are ready to show who you are. I can say that you will succeed because I know you are special. We, the junior students of Yokohama Hayato High School, are proud of you and hope your life will shine with happiness.

Thank you.