Adeline Suyapto

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Graduation Speech

Hello, everyone, my name is Adeline Suyapto, and I've been attending Clairbourn since fourth grade. I'd like to thank everyone for being here. It will soon be the last day of middle school and I will graduate and move onward to high school. Family, friends, the administration, faculty, and trustees, thank you all for being a part of my amazing Clairbourn experience. One of the most important pieces of advice I learned during my time at Clairbourn is to stay present in the moment you're in. Mother Teresa once said, "Be happy in the moment, that's enough. Each moment is all we need, not more." What I believe Mother Teresa means is that we should all focus on our present circumstances rather than looking to the past or future. We can all focus on creating more good memories in our daily tasks. Instead of stressing over an upcoming test or grades, we should remind ourselves to be in the moment and enjoy what we are doing. I recommend that everyone remind themselves to stay present in their circumstances.

One Clairbourn memory that applies to this advice is the Dana Point field trip that our class went on in 5th grade. During the field trip, we got to experience and explore a replica of the tall ships early settlers of California used. Although it was extremely cold and rainy that day, I was able to enjoy my time by staying present and learning about the different areas of the ship and the sailors' lifestyles on the ship. Unlike other previous classes who had also been on the field trip, I was lucky enough to experience the harsh weather just like the sailors would have. In my discomfort, I got the chance to

know what it really felt like to be on the tall ship. I am so grateful I chose to stay positive and present during that experience because the exhibit was recently forced to shut down in 2020 due to the pandemic. This is a great example of why you should stay situated in the present; you never know if you will ever be able to experience these moments again.

Similar to the way my class stayed present on our field trip, I was once again taught the importance of appreciating the present moment during Spring break of 6th grade. At the beginning of the break, I was told that we would be getting an extra week at home due to the COVID-19 outbreak. At first, I was extremely happy to hear this information, however, that extra week turned out to be a whole extra year. When I first started middle school in 6th grade, I was so busy worrying about passing tests and getting used to the new schedule that I wasn't able to remain in my present moment. Now looking back at my brief time in middle school prior to the pandemic, I realize now that I should have taken the time to adjust to middle school and enjoy spending time with my friends in person.

Staying present was especially helpful in art class. When I first joined Clairbourn, I wasn't the best artist. Although I did not like how most of my art projects turned out, I was able to enjoy art class and learn to improve because of the encouragement from my teachers and friends. On one occasion, I was assigned to paint a watercolor project, which was quite challenging for me since I was not familiar with watercolor techniques. Despite the project being a challenge, my teacher was patient and helped guide me throughout every step. Even though I wasn't the most talented artist when I first joined Clairbourn I soon got better and even won some art design contests each year in middle

school. If it wasn’t for staying present and enjoying my time in art class, I believe that I wouldn't be the artist I am today.

In my time as a Clairbourn student these past few years, I’ve come to learn not only the importance of being in the present moment but also of staying positive in every circumstance. I could’ve chosen to be upset with the cold and rainy weather during the field trip, or unhappy with my art projects, but instead I stayed positive and made my experience the best it could be.

Staying present was not the only reason my time at Clairbourn was the best it could be, I learned that it is important to stay positive as well. Throughout these years at Clairbourn, I have learned to become a scholar and leader with heart. I am extremely grateful for my friends and family for always being there for me. Thank you, everyone, especially my mom, dad, and my brother, for supporting me. I wouldn’t be the same person I am today if it weren’t for them. I wish everyone the best and most importantly, congratulations to the class of 2022!