

To: 8th Grade Students Interested in Speaking at the
End-of-the-Year Promotion Ceremony



From: 8th Grade Team

Subject: Procedures for Being Considered as a Speaker

The 8th grade end-of-the-year ceremony on June 15th will be an important occasion for the Class of 2022. Student speakers will be a part of the ceremony. We want to make sure the selection process is fair and results in the best possible performances that day.

Tryouts for the privilege of being a speaker will be held after school on Wednesday, May 25th and Thursday, May 26th in Mrs. Clemens's room #4. Please sign up with your English teacher if you wish to try out. A panel of teachers and other staff members will listen to the speeches and judge you on your content and presentation. One (or possibly two) student speakers will be selected. In addition to your tryout performance, your success in school and your citizenship will also be considered, since the speakers must be appropriate representatives of their class and school. You do not have to dress up for the try-outs—it is understood you will wear a nice outfit at the ceremony. However, please come prepared to present with the same flair and polish you expect to use should you be chosen as a representative of your class. In other words, practice!!

Here are some suggestions to help you as you work on your speech:

- You will have 4 – 7 minutes total to speak
- Begin by addressing your audience (“Ms Jones, Ms. Ketterman, staff of LKMS, parents, fellow members of the class of 2022.....”)
- Remember that you are speaking as a representative of your class and not personally, so make your remarks and examples broad and inclusive.
- Keep your tone light and inspirational. It’s not the time to advocate for weighty subjects.
- You could write in poetry or narrative style for part or all of your speech.
- Be sure to make use of some of the principles of rhetoric you studied in ELA to improve your speech.
- Typical content might be:
 - A nostalgic look back at your class’s three years at LKMS.
 - Reminders of historical events connected to your time at LKMS (preferably positive ones.)
 - A gently humorous look at people in our school community
 - A look into the future to where you are all headed together.
 - Acknowledgement of people in your lives who have helped you.

Good luck to each of you!