

Senior Open House Speech

My name is Hannah Griese and I would like to again welcome you to Covington Latin School. As I look around this room, I see interest, concern, and excitement, but mostly I am reminded of myself and my family five years ago. Sitting in the same spot as you are today, we had more than a few important questions.

First in my mind were the questions any 5th grader would have going to a new school. Will I fit in? Will the work be too difficult? Will there be time for sports or other fun activities? My parents, however, were mostly concerned with one significant consideration pertaining to my future. Obviously, advancing one or two grades in high school leads to entering college one or two years earlier. My parents worried if I would be academically and socially prepared for college at sixteen. They were also anxious about whether or not colleges would accept the idea of a sixteen-year-old coming to their school. I decided to come to Covington Latin and my family's questions have since been answered.

My own personal worries started being alleviated within my first year at CLS.

- Will I fit in?

At Covington Latin, I've found that there are students with varied interests and different backgrounds. Anyone can find acceptance for who they are. Making friends was easy and my class soon grew very close. Now, after almost five years, I cannot imagine never seeing my classmates again, and I know they will be lasting friends. Because Covington Latin is a small school, each student is able to really get to know their fellow classmates.

- Will the work be too difficult?

Covington Latin School has never been known as an easy school, and in my experience that still stands. The work was, and is, always challenging and requires serious effort to be put forth. However, I was never unable to do the work that was asked of me, and never felt incapable. With the faculty at Covington Latin, a student is guaranteed to be pushed but never without the tools needed to succeed. Teachers here love the subjects they teach, and really do give help when it is asked from them. It is impossible, at Covington Latin, to do poorly if you dedicate yourself to your work and use the opportunities to get help when you need it.

- Will there be time for sports or other fun activities?

At Covington Latin School there are many opportunities to get involved in extracurricular activities. I have been able to participate in three varsity sports a year, be in two class plays, be on yearbook committee, as well as be in several other clubs, and still keep up with my school work. There really is some way for everyone to participate.

Today, as a senior I can relate to my parents original concerns about college. However, once and for all, I can confidently say I believe I am prepared for college. Each year at CLS I have been required to be more and more self-sufficient. Greater responsibilities have been given to me along with privileges. As seniors we are treated much like we will be in college and in our adult lives. As I have gained knowledge from my teachers, I have also gained self-awareness.

By going to Covington Latin I have learned what I believe in and have a stronger sense of who I am. I know what I stand for and what my opinions are. More importantly, I have learned you are entitled to your own beliefs and should not let others make their opinions your own. I am who I am, and I am confident in who that is because of my education at CLS. I know that going into college I will not be defined by who others think I should be, and that is how I know I am prepared socially.

Academically preparing me for college has been an ongoing process for almost five years. I am ready for any work college courses can give me. I am used to being challenged and know how to push myself to get done what needs to be done. Because of Covington Latin, I am also able to, and comfortable with, writing multiple five page papers in a week and have written a fifteen page research paper. I have taken a language for four years, and have been able to take AP Calculus, Biology, and Composition. I am prepared for the level of difficulty and work load of college classes.

On my part I am ready for college. As far as colleges being ready for a sixteen-year-old student I have received good signs so far. I have applied and been accepted to Xavier University, Centre College, Bellarmine University, the University of Kentucky, Thomas More College, and I am still waiting to hear back from Vanderbilt University.

Plato once said "The direction in which education starts a man will determine his future". I believe Covington Latin School has led me in the right direction.

Thank you