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NEWSPAPER CLUB



TUSKER TRIBUNE

## My Speech to MY Fellow Graduating 8th Graders!



By Emma Gordon  
Tusker Tribune Staff

I've spent three years in this school. For three years in September, I would put on my unicorn or regular backpack, and walk into the Somers Middle School after a nice summer break. Some years, I would walk through the school knowing it like the back of my hand. Other years –a.k.a. sixth grade- I... wouldn't.

But this September, I'm going to walk into the Somers *High* School after a nice summer break, again not knowing where I'm going.

A lot of us here probably have a similar experience to what I've just mentioned. You may also have gone through a lot of changes; whether with your friends, your academics, yourself, and the many things that have changed about ourselves due to this pandemic.



But no matter what, this school has definitely had a huge impact on us. And I would say a much larger impact than SIS, or Primrose, or whatever other schools you guys have gone to. And I say this because this school was where we finally started being independent. It's where everything changed for us.

We went to Primrose and learned how vowels work. We went to SIS and learned our times tables. And now we're at SMS, and it's definitely been a different experience. Changing classes, multiple teachers, and the high school suddenly becoming closer and closer away.

Like in Primrose, were you really thinking about high school? How about in SIS?

But now, it's just suddenly two months away. And then soon enough, college.

High school is this intimidating place where everything counts...and we're heading straight for it.

But you know what? I think we can do it. I think that a lot of things you, my classmates, have may change; may not last. But I believe that we could get through all that.

A year and a half ago, I may have thought "There's no way we're ready. There's no way *I'm* ready. *How* can we be ready?" But now I look around, and we're in a *pandemic*!

We have been for more than a *year*. If we can get through that, if we can get through these life changes where you suddenly have to wear a piece of fabric over your face every day, and you suddenly can't hug your friends; I think we can get through 4 years of high school.

And I don't think that we can just *get through* high school, I think we can *excel* in it.

*Continued on Page 2*

## All About Juneteenth



By Jeremy Jawahir  
Tusker Tribune Staff  
*Editor's Note: This year, Somers Schools were closed for the first commemoration of*

*Juneteenth. Next year, Juneteenth will be an official state holiday in New York State. You can explore Juneteenth by clicking on this link to Juneteenth resources: <https://www.csd.org/stories/juneteenth-an-overview-celebrations-and-resources/>*



## JUNETEENTH

What is Juneteenth? A lot of people ask that question. And that is the question I will be answering.

Saturday, June 19<sup>th</sup>, is Juneteenth. It is also called Freedom Day, Liberation Day and Jubilee Day.

Juneteenth is a holiday celebrating the Emancipation Proclamation, which was signed by Abraham Lincoln in 1863, following the Battle of Antietam, which basically freed all the slaves in the Confederacy. The celebrations date all the way back to 1866.

However, the Emancipation Proclamation did not free all the slaves. It was still legal in two border states.

It wasn't until after the Civil War, and the surrender of the Confederacy, that slavery was outlawed throughout the nation.

## Camp Kiwi Field Day: A Perfect End to a Tough Year



### By The Tusker Tribune Staff

8th graders had perfect weather for a field day at Camp Kiwi. The venerable day camp had virtually all of its attractions open and kids had a terrific time.

From mini golf, to Zip lines, to swimming, to field games, there was more than enough for everyone to have a fun-filled day. It was a memorable way to a really topsy-turvy school year.



## My Speech

From Page 1

I think that this past year has probably changed a lot in the way of how we view school, and ourselves, and the world in general. Not just because of a pandemic—well okay, mostly because of a pandemic—but also because, this is when things change. This is when people suddenly think “*What do I want to do with my life?*” And everyone graduating here is probably thinking that, maybe some of you aren’t ready for that quite yet...

But honestly, I think that’s okay. I feel like that there’s a lot of pressure on us—especially this year—to know what exactly we want to do. *What college do you want to go to? What job do you want to do for the rest of your life?*

But I’m still figuring it out. Just a year ago, what I wanted to do the most was to become an actress. But now, I want to become an author. Soon, I might want to become an animator, or a doctor, or a public speaker—and I think that’s okay. I think that we need high school to not only go upon the path to a doctor or lawyer that we’ve chosen for ourselves, but to expand our horizons.

Now obviously, if you hate writing, then you’re not going to try and go to journalism classes to expand your horizons. I mean to do it based on your hobbies. What do *you* really like to do? What would you be okay with doing for the rest of

your life?

Now again, not trying to put any pressure on anyone here to jump into a career option; I’m just saying, that high school is the definition of self-discovery. Slap a picture of it in the dictionary for “Self-Discovery”, and there you go.

And that may seem intimidating. Just thinking about all of this in my own head makes it feel like that the second I walk into that high school, I’ll be walking through a minefield. But the only option you have really, is to go into it head on. You only go to high school once; make the most of it.

And if you’re still wondering how you’re going to get through high school, you won’t know what to do, you’re completely confused; think of everything that has brought you to this moment, especially in the three years of middle school. Think about how much you’ve changed since three years ago, or two years ago, or even *last year*.

Now think about the next four years of high school. Think about how much you’re going to grow in these upcoming years; that’s known for change. Trust me, you’ll be ready before you can even say “*Wait a minute, I’m ready!*”

Whenever I listen to a speech, I really think about it afterwards. So please, really think about this afterwards. Think about what I have said, in the eyes of a now graduating eighth grader like you, think about what you think about it.

Congrats guys! We did it!

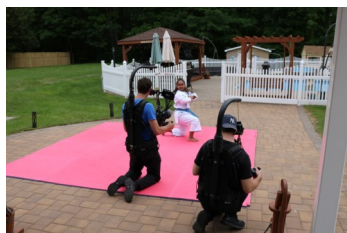
## SMS 7th Grader Makes Lasting Impact On the Karate World



Meet SMS 7th Grader Sierra Deodhari, a 12-year-old Karate expert and CEO of her own business, Sierra Karate. Sierra recently was the subject of a **GoDaddyMakers SuccessStory** commercial, that was filmed at her house, and that's been on YouTube for some time now. The photos you see are taken from that commercial shoot that was done about two weeks ago.

Click on the link below to find out the secret of Sierra's success. Congratulations on your accomplishments, Sierra!

<http://www.viewpure.com/m5Ki7hAEfSg?start=0&end=0>



## More Camp Kiwi Pics!



Thanks to all of our writers this year! Have a Great Summer! See you in the Fall!

—The Tusker Tribune Staff  
and  
Editorial Board.



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