



Time to Dream

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE | OCTOBER 9, 2016

Remarks for Induction of Students into the Central Middle School Junior National Honor Society | October 6, 2016

If we were to travel from White Bear Lake west to the Mississippi River, and then turn north along the river for about 100 miles, close to the west bank we would see a wood frame house more than a century old.

From the front porch of this old farmhouse, we could watch the Mississippi River flow south to the Twin Cities, and eventually into the Gulf of Mexico.

Behind this house are giant oaks, maples and pines, and further on, a gully leading down to Pine Creek, which meanders through the farm, emptying into the Mississippi River just south of the house.

The boy who lived in that house 100 years ago was by all accounts a hard worker and a serious student. In fact, there is a great deal of evidence from his later life that even early on he demonstrated scholarship, leadership, character, service, and citizenship. These are the very qualities for which you are honored tonight.

However, because the Junior National Honor Society was not founded until 1929, well after his middle school years, he was too old to qualify. But by 1929 this young man had done something quite extraordinary.

You see, as a lad your age, he was also a dreamer. In fact, he remembers taking breaks from his farm work during the summer, resting alongside Pine Creek, and looking into the sky. There and then, he remembers, he was determined to fly an airplane.

He was born in 1902, almost exactly 100 years before you were born. When he was of elementary school age, he would have learned about the Wright Brothers, who just one year after he was born, built and flew the world's first airplane at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina.

But this boy had even higher aspirations.

In a story you may well remember from your Minnesota History class, when he was just 25-years-old, in the year 1927, he became the first person to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean, leaving from New York and arriving in France 33.5 hours later.

His name was Charles Lindbergh.

His plane, the "Spirit of St. Louis," today hangs in the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum in Washington D.C. And his boyhood home is just south of Little Falls, Minnesota, today open to the public as part of the Charles Lindbergh State Park.

Charles Lindbergh became an American hero, and one of most famous Minnesotans of the era.

Why do I tell you this story?

Because your hard work and honors are important both for what they represent now, and for the promise of your future.

That is, now as a student success in **scholarship**, you will be given many choices. **Service** to others will help you develop compassion. **Leadership** will help you gain courage. By basing your decisions on those values you know to be important and true, others will be able to count on your **character**. You will learn to contribute and participate in our community through your **citizenship**.

What about your future?

Like Charles Lindbergh, you will be dreamers too. What do you want to do? What will you choose to do after high school?

You do not need to decide now, of course, but sometime between now and high school graduation you will realize that your hard work and service are important not just to please others. You will understand that your efforts are important to you - for the person you want to be, and the goals you want to accomplish.

We will watch you on your journey - your parents and grandparents, family and friends, teachers and administrators, and be proud of you each step of the way.

As we are tonight.

Congratulations!

Michael J. Lovett, Ph.D
Superintendent, White Bear Lake Area Schools