

HENRY C. BECK MIDDLE SCHOOL

8TH GRADE COMMENCEMENT

Cherry Hill High School West
Jonas C. Morris Stadium

Wednesday

JUNE 16, 2021

12:00 PM

PROGRAM

PROCESSIONAL

The Star Spangled Banner

The Pledge of Allegiance

Welcome

A Look at the Past, A Peek at the Future

Angela Duckworth Award

Cherry Hill Education Foundation Award

American Legion School Award

Ann Bendzyn Award

Jeffrey S. Heller Award

Memories of Beck

School Ends, Memories Last

Introduction of Graduates

Presentation of Symbolic Certificate

RECESSIONAL

Pomp and Circumstance

Chorus Ensemble

Rylie Morris

Mr. Bernard O'Connor

Chloe Lin

Mrs. Danielle Douglas

Mrs. Danielle Douglas

Mr. Terence Somerville

Mr. Terence Somerville

Mr. Terence Somerville

Cate Feudtner

Rylie Morris

Mr. Bernard O'Connor

Mrs. Danielle Douglas

Mr. Terence Somerville

Mr. Bernard O'Connor

Crown of Glory

BECK MIDDLE SCHOOL STAFF

Language Arts Department

Ann Allen
Amanda Baker
Risa Cohen
Heather Farnath
Dawn Fichera
Laura Gertel

Lisa Lipman
Molly McHugh
Jodi Morley
Rose Noll
Rosaria Norkus
Melanie Wyckoff

Mathematics Department

Sharon Adams
Lisa Castillo
Stephanie Digneo
Courtney Freedman
Karen Kuliczkowski
Stephanie Miller

Mahesh Pathak
Meg Ruesch
Nicholas Schade
Louis Tortu
James Wence

Science Department

Karen Block
Chris Corey
Gary Haaf
Jennifer Foltz
Kimberly Keyack

Jennifer Mooney
Deborah Nemerofsky
Jerry Tritt
Wendy Wong

Humanities Department

Leah Dryden
Scott Klear
April Lee
Shauna McAdam
Wendy McDermott

Valerie McDonald
Lauren Miscioscia
Cyndi Nieves
Alla Rose

World Language Department

Eda Abramovitz
Veronica Donaghy
Katherine Rimdzius

Ismael Rios Lopez
Kelly Smith

Physical Education/Health Department

Joan Collazo
Ed Douglas
Joy Malko

Rochelle Senges
John Wade

Music Department

Brian Kain

Gabriela Mandescu

Stephen Marr

Exploratory

Marianne Daily
Donald Draft

Kirsten Ennis
Janet McGrath
Laurie Parker

Guidance Department

Regina James

Julie Lane

Marnie Malcarney

Special Education Teachers

Susan Avery, Math/LA
Heather Billingsley, LLD
Caitlin Cocco, Math/LA
Janene Fiore-Malone, LLD
Amy Graves, Math/LA
Felice Livecchi, LLD
Marissa Markus, Math/LA
Ryan Nixon, Math/LA
Emma Officer, Math/LA

Adriana Principato, Math/LA
Laura Sutter, Math/LA
Ami Tabares, Math/LA
Natalie Wallace, LLD
Josh Weinstein, Math/LA
Stephanie Weinstein, LLD
Jacqueline Weisman, Math/LA
Diane Zeltner, LLD

Special Services

Ann Brugnolo, LDT/C
Jessica Bruno, Speech Therapist
Eileen Conover, S.A.C.

Susan Levy, Psychologist
Chris Rossi, Technician
James Southard, Social Worker
Amy Traberman, ESL

Educational Assistants

Carolyn Barra
Angela Bathurst
Phyllis Bottley
Brenda Callari
Wendy Capra
Rose Casey
Cathleen Clark
Tracy Clark
Elise Croce
Debbie Formanek
Wendy Hsieh
Janna Loshikian

Diana Maxwell
Kathleen McNulty
Sheryl Mosko
Jada Norton
Tamie Paglione
Chanelle Perry
Leslie Sheppard
Mindy Siegel
Perveen Sultana
Alyssa Washington
Sharon Wright

Custodians

Olga Rivera
Juana Gomez
Breilyn Hidalgo

Pedro Perez
Jeff Smith
Carmen Solis

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Mrs. Danielle Douglas, Assistant Principal
Mr. Terence Somerville, Assistant Principal
Kathy Miller, Secretary
Elly Miracola, Secretary
Denise Willoth, Secretary

A Look at the Past, A Peek at the Future

By Chloe Lin

Welcome teachers, administrators, staff, families, and friends to our 2021 Beck Middle School graduation! I would like to start off by congratulating our Beck Class of 2021! It's crazy to think that when we stepped through the Beck doors, nearly 3 years ago, we never would have imagined a graduation like this. We have been through an insane middle school experience, but here we are! I would also like to thank all of the Beck staff and families for helping us along the way. Without your support and guidance, we wouldn't be the strong, resilient students who stand before you now.

Over the past three years, we have been through many ups and downs. I thought I would take some time today to share some of our greatest memories and experiences that have shaped us into the rising freshmen we have become today.

In September of 2018, we walked through the Beck halls for the first time- palms sweaty, hearts racing, and for most of us, several inches shorter than we are now. We desperately hoped to see a familiar face in our homerooms and were reluctant to talk to those we didn't know. Our minds were filled with fears from all the rumors we had heard about middle school- being shoved into lockers, pop quizzes every week, and mountains of homework piled upon us each night. But as the year went on, we started opening up and making new friends. We realized that our fears were unfounded and middle school wasn't as scary as it had seemed. A memory I will always cherish from sixth grade is our Mt. Misery trip. All of the fun activities and lessons from that week made it an unforgettable experience. As our sixth grade year came to an end, we realized that middle school was going to be alright.

I feel like it was just yesterday when we walked into the building as seventh graders. Who would have thought that seventh grade would be the last time we roamed the halls without masks? The last time we ate lunch in the school cafeteria? The last time we handed our homework in on a sheet of paper? For while these few months lasted, I had a great time. My friends were in my classes, my teachers were nice, and I continued to learn more and more each day in every subject that broadened my intellectual curiosity. When the momentous March 13, 2020 arrived, we all awaited the announcement of whether or not the school would close due to COVID-19. I remember that when school ended that day, it was decided that we would stay open until further notice. However, later that night, we received the notification that schools were going to be closed for two weeks. Initially, I'm sure most of us were ecstatic that we could get a break and stay home. Asynchronous work from the comfort of our own homes seemed great at first. But then two weeks turned into a month, and a month turned into the rest of the school year. Before long we were starting our eight grade year on zoom!

I'm sure our 6th grade selves would never have thought our last year of middle school would be a year for the history books. Without warning, our normal routine of learning in person and seeing our friends everyday changed overnight. We were taught everything from our laptop and computer screens- talk about the age of technology! What we learned, how we socialized, and all of our assignments were now through the rectangular screen on our devices. Online school was a new experience for all of us and it took a little getting used to. With all of these new schedule changes and hybrid learning, the first couple of months were quite different. There were some things that I didn't miss- the smell of the locker room, the rush to the lockers after class, and the

full six hours of school. But of course, I missed the normal routine a lot. I wasn't able to see my friends, have lunch with them, walk around the hallways, or just go to school in general. I want to thank the teachers, staff, and everyone who helped to make 8th grade a successful year, despite all the challenges that came with it, and for making online and hybrid learning very efficient.

Throughout these three years at Beck Middle School, we have grown and changed into mature young adults. We've made new friends, met new people, but most importantly, we have learned more about ourselves and our identities. As we forge on into the next chapter of life, let us not forget the lessons we have learned here. Let us utilize all the skills we have learned here at Beck- perseverance, resilience, grit, and many more- in our futures.

It's crazy to think that these next four years will be the last four years of our childhood. With the coronavirus that may be a part of us for as long as we live and eye-opening news events in the past year regarding racism, we know that we are certainly living in a generation full of changes. I have full faith that although we were not given a normal end to middle school, we have only become more capable of adapting to change and being resilient in whatever life may throw at us next. High school definitely won't be a walk in the park, but with the help and support of our friends, families, and teachers, I trust that we will all be able to make it through. I hope to see you all next Fall, and once again, congratulations to the Beck Class of 2021. Thank you!

ANGELA DUCKWORTH AWARD – To recognize students who model self-motivation and perseverance, take on challenges and maintain consistent effort and exemplify the true meaning of “grit”.

Abdulwahab Alshamrani
Kenyon Carter
Charlie Khan

Nathan Morgan
Brittany Palillero
Ashley Yang

CHERRY HILL EDUCATION FOUNDATION COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD – To commend and recognize a student who has dedicated quality time to participating in community service activities.

Ava Crawley

AMERICAN LEGION AWARD – An award of distinguished achievement presented by Cherry Hill Post 372 to two students who consistently displayed courage, honor, leadership, patriotism, scholarship and service.

Megan Pedersen

Jesse Tallent

ANN BENDZYN AWARD – To recognize students who reflect Beck’s core values of Perseverance, Integrity, Respect, Responsibility and Compassion.

Natalie Donahue
Emily Fox
Jackson Green

Gabriel Grodanz
Riley Morrell
Madison Schultz

JEFFREY S. HELLER AWARD – Presented to individuals who have shown outstanding fortitude and determination to achieve their goals while overcoming a variety of obstacles.

Alexa Celestino
Dennis Delgado
Daewhan Kim

Julianna Machulsky
Dominic McGee
Emma Sakala

Memories of Beck

By Cate Feudtner

When I walked into Beck Middle School for the first time, I was very different than I am leaving it today. Over these past three years, I have changed not only as a student, having learned about so many new ideas and topics in my classes, but also as a person. I am the person I am today because of all of the experiences I've had, and the influences from all of my teachers, fellow students, and friends that I've interacted with throughout my school years. Now, at the end of this journey, I am very grateful to be left with so many memories of Beck.

It all began on the first day of sixth grade. I remember standing at the side entrance scanning the crowd for my homeroom teacher, while simultaneously taking in all of the new faces that would surround me for the next three years. That day, and the next few weeks for that matter, were pretty chaotic. The locker that I had been thrilled to finally have ended up being more challenging than I expected, and I struggled to get comfortable finding my way to my classes. Somehow, I got lost every time I needed to go to the STEM room! Looking back, it seems so strange that the building I once thought was a maze, I could now walk through blindfolded.

Besides the navigational struggle, there was the classic problem that you always hear about when starting a new school--making friends. When the year began, I learned that none of my friends from elementary school had the same classes as I did, which was very unnerving. It was difficult for me to have to go through every class without any familiar faces. However, this issue was soon solved, and I ended up even better off because of it! I was able to not only befriend new people, but also to grow bonds with peers I'd known for a long time, yet never really connected with before. These friends stayed by my side on the good days and the bad days, and I am still close with them today.

Throughout the year, I had so many experiences and new adventures, from crossing the finish line during my first ever cross country meet, to hearing the roar of the crowd during spirit week assemblies, even to falling into the lake at Mount Misery! Sixth grade was everything I could have asked for to start off my middle school experience.

Once that exhilarating year ended, 7th grade came in strong. Luckily, the start was much easier than the year before, and I was glad to no longer be in the youngest grade in the school. I enjoyed getting to meet my new teachers and making more friends. I enjoyed the fun days in class, when we'd play games and do special activities like international day. I even enjoyed doing homework with my friends after we got out of school. Little did I know, however, that I was taking these things that seemed so simple at the time for granted.

Soon March came, and unfortunately, so did COVID-19. Honestly, I was excited when we first got our break. I mean, it would be two weeks of getting to do easy work and sleeping in, and then back to normal, right? Well, we all know how that really turned out. Once the lockdown became much more serious, I was disappointed, since I'd been getting ready to start track season and perform in the musical when we left school.

The rest of the year was like a crazy blur, filled with figuring out how Zoom worked, doing short assignments, and not being able to see anyone in person. I'd never expected that my year would end up that way, and it was difficult to deal with.

Before I knew it, the last day of school was coming to a close. I sat at my desk, unmuted my microphone to say goodbye, and clicked leave meeting. And just like that, seventh grade was over.

Now, here we are, at the end of eighth grade! As a sixth grader, I thought it would be forever before I made it here... although I didn't expect it to be quite like this. I expected a normal year, filled with the typical experiences other 8th graders in the past got to do. I was not expecting a year of online classes, aka the "new normal". However, despite all of the restrictions, I feel very fortunate that I have been able to participate in some of my favorite activities in person again, like fall sports and performing arts. Most importantly, I am so glad I was finally able to interact with my friends and teachers who I hadn't seen in so long.

These memories, of past feelings and events, will stick with me. I can't pretend that I have only fond recollections -- there's been silly drama, assignments that I haven't done very well on, and most significantly, an entire pandemic that has been so terrible for so many people -- but the bad days always help me grow. I have learned that it's okay to not be perfect all the time, that seemingly bad situations, like being partners with someone you don't get along with, or having a teacher that gives too much work, can often be gifts in disguise, and so much more. Although we students may end up losing touch with some of the people that we have connected with here at Beck, the lessons and memories that we have made together are what will be carried forward forever.

Congratulations Class of 2021, I wish you all nothing but the best when we move on to even bigger and better things. Always remember that someday, all we will have is memories, so make yours good ones. Thank you!

School Ends, Memories Last

By Rylie Morris

Welcome family, friends, and graduating 8th graders! It's time, my friends, to move on from these hallways and enter new ones. I'm here today to share some of the memories I've gained within these walls before we say goodbye to this school and start a new chapter in our lives. When reminiscing about middle school, we won't remember what the word "fervor" means or Mesopotamian civilization or the Pythagorean Theorem. We won't remember the grades we got or the tests we took (although it will always stick with us how much homework we were given). What we will remember, though, are the spirit week competitions, the field trips, the cafeteria craziness, and the special teachers and staff who went out of their way to make us smile each day.

Each year at Beck Middle School was memorable, and each one was different from the year before. In 6th grade, we all stood outside the 6th grade entrance, giddy with excitement with our new backpacks and clothes and mechanical pencils. None of us knew what we were doing; we were just awkward 11 year olds trying to fit in. I don't know about you, but I found 8th graders back then very intimidating. They all looked so frightening as they glared at you. Turns out, standing here now as an 8th grader, it's not as bad as I thought, and none of us are all that frightening. I remember thinking how the school was so much bigger than elementary school. In reality, it's not that big. I think the highlight of 6th grade was Mount Misery. Sure, it might've been haunted, but the activities were too enjoyable to care. We played games and caught fish and ran into thorn bushes, by the way that really hurt. In my opinion, though, nothing could beat the meal times we had there. My table was especially lively, and we shared a lot of laughs. We had secret plans on how to act and what to do. Some of us lived on Saltines at dinner time (you know who you are). That trip even gave me a newfound love of churros. What did we learn from this experience? How to lean on friends, make new friends, and also how to build a shelter in the woods, but that's beside the point.

The next year we entered 7th grade with our shoulders back and our heads held high. The workload increased, but so did the moments that made us smile. We became more comfortable in the school. We found new friends on our new teams, even friends who were new to the school. When I think back to 7th grade, for me, it was a year where we all got the social freedom we had been looking for. We got to go on long bike rides with friends to eat at delis. We enjoyed long nights with the people we loved to hang out with, without our parents hovering over us. We enjoyed the year as the carefree middle children of the school. And then one day in homeroom Carl Azuz of CNN 10 announced a deadly disease that was surging through China and suddenly our middle school life as we once knew it was halted. None of us really understood the severity of the situation, until Covid 19 shut down the schools and forced us into quarantine. We all got creative, using social media to connect with our friends and using computers to do all of our school work. And the rest of the year flew by like that--online. And in sweats.

That led us into 8th grade, which started with hesitation of what the new year would look like. We wondered if we would go back and enjoy the normal activities of school. After all, this was our year to be "the frightening 8th graders." As much as we hated to admit it, we missed those hallways. The year moved on with that thought in mind, going surprisingly fast. Soon enough the doors of Beck Middle School opened up once again, some of us choosing to go while others deciding to stay virtual. Even though it was a challenge for all, teachers included, we learned something this year--our level of resilience. We can forge through anything as long as we have the people that matter to us by our sides. And yes, that does include the dogs that laid with us and

watched us do our work and the cats that climbed on our desks and across our keyboards. In the end, we were all going through the same thing, and we all knew what each other was feeling. We knew the pain and the sadness of this year, but we also knew the excitement and the thrills. This year only made us stronger, as cheesy as it sounds. It made us better people, and I think you should all know that going into high school.

Look around. There is at least one person in this ceremony who helped you when you thought no one could. Make an effort to keep these people in your mind, because they had an impact on your life, whether you realize it or not. Maybe it was the teachers that were always there for you when you needed it, or maybe it was the educational assistants that made you smile with their jokes, or maybe it was the classmates that you would talk to about homework. No matter what, they will always be a part of your lives. Through the good and the bad, we proved that Beck Middle school is truly a community, united by our struggles and our achievements.

We can all agree that this year has been one for the history books. We've gained experiences that we can use for the rest of our lives. These years at Beck have been like one long road trip, and we've all been on the bus, paving the roads with memories. One day we'll look back and reminisce about life in middle school, laughing and cherishing the memories. But for now, enjoy the graduation and your first (and only) large gathering of the 2021 school year.

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