

Hello. My name is Mia Storz. I'd like to welcome you to Immanuel Lutheran's 8th grade graduation. Some of us have been here since preschool. Some of us kindergarten, (including myself) and some of us only a couple years or less. But regardless of the amount of time we have been here at Immanuel... we are a family.

We have worked hard to get to this point, however, we could not have done it without the help of the following people.

To our teachers, thank you for sharing your time, talent and knowledge with us. Thank you for your heart and caring about us. Even though we can be obnoxious, defiant, unruly, need I go on? You still love us!

To our parents, thank you for all the support and encouragement throughout the years. You dragged us out of bed each morning, you drove us to school, sporting events, field trips, concerts, and more. You helped us with homework, donated food, clothing, books, money. You volunteered at school events and came to our plays...and these are just a few of the many ways you have supported us on our journey.

To our principal, Mr. Bower, thank you for demanding excellence from us, whether or not we wanted to give it. You set the bar high and challenged us to live up to it. You lead by example and we appreciate your heart for Immanuel.

And most importantly...we thank God for giving us this amazing Christian environment that pushes us to pursue our relationship with Jesus each and every day. Deuteronomy 31:8, our class verse, says the Lord himself goes before you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. I love this verse because it speaks to us at this very moment. We are all leaving this close knit family- this safe, familiar, loving environment. Next year as we go our separate ways, we enter the unknown, and everything will be new. But even though that thought can be a little scary, it is also exciting and opens up so many more opportunities for new activities and friendships. And the best part is...no matter what happens, God will be with us through all of it. This verse reminds us that God is with us today, tomorrow and everyday after that. May God be with each one of you as you enter the next chapter in your lives! Thank you.