

Jamie: Welcome Sister Colleen, Sister Marisa, faculty members, and students. My name is Jamie and I'm a seventh grader here at STS. I have many classmates who have been at STS since preschool or kindergarten, I however came here last year. Before STS, I have attended three different schools. Each time I went to a new school, I felt the same thing— a nervous pit in my stomach. A sense of not belonging because people already had their group of friends. Luckily, St. Theresa School was different. From the moment I walked in, I felt a sense of family. A sense of community. I've witnessed people's kindness, patience, acceptance and stewardship. This school welcomed me with open arms, and in a short time, I have thrived. I am a member of the champion volleyball team, I am currently the student council vice president, I have participated in forensics and I've learned so much. In such little time, this school has taught me so much about my faith and for that, I am extremely thankful. To all of you— my friends, my teachers, the Sisters— I am so thankful for you all.

Valerie: Good morning everyone, my name is Valerie and, just like Jamie, I am a seventh grader here at St. Theresa School as well as the Student Council secretary and it is a great honor to be standing before Sister Colleen today. Last year was also my first one spent here, and coming from a public school and having never been to a Catholic private school before, it was filled with new experiences. I still remember the unfamiliarity I felt when I walked into the gym for morning assembly, yet right away I felt a sense of unity I hadn't experienced in my other schools. When we all prayed together, something that you never do in public schools, it was eye-opening to just how wonderful everyone is here as a community and was akin to a warm welcome. In religion classes, I get the opportunity to learn more about God, Salesians, and Don Bosco, with some stuff I wouldn't have known otherwise. Additionally, even though last year was my first here, I was welcomed not only by the people here, but I was able to succeed in academics, Forensics, and even as a class representative in the Student Council. I deeply hope that every newcomer here also finds a way to easily adapt to this environment and can find that this community in St. Theresa School is truly something to be proud of.

Jamie: This school lives by its mission statement of being compassionate, responsible and excellent in learning. Everyone here is gathered today to welcome you, Sister Colleen, with open arms.

Valerie: We know that this is your first year as Provincial, and just like us, you'll be welcomed by everyone and we will do all we can to make sure your time here is well spent. During your visit, we all hope that you see the Salesian values at our school.

Both: Thank you.