

8th Grade Moving Up
Marshall School 2006
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Just in case you think that you never again will have to remember what a metaphor is, I am here to tell you that this is the time of year when I think a lot about metaphors.

I like metaphors for helping me remember what is unique about each class and for giving “going away” messages to graduating seniors and to you, as you move to upper school. This year, it was this room and this terrific view of Lake Superior that inspired me.

A few months ago your teachers and I went to Minneapolis for a conference about teaching that was called, “Navigating the Waters.” I like to think that is just what you will be doing for the next, navigating the waters of high school. Take a second right now to think of one verb that goes with water, and I’ll see how many I cover.

When you start high school you can make many choice:

- You might choose to drift, for example, making your way aimlessly through classes
- You might dive in, immersing yourself deeply in subjects or activities about which you are passionate
- You might float with purpose for awhile, moving from dock to dock as you determine what you want to focus on
- You might paddle hard using your own energy to go where you want to go
- You might tread water occasionally and look around for new direction
- Most of all, and this is the image I hold in my head for you, you might surf the waves imagining yourself on a narrow surfboard standing tall amidst the froth underneath you and riding the energy to the next landing.

Remember this, some swimmers are leaving the water right now—the seniors who will graduate on Sunday. We need you to take their places—the clubs, musical groups, sports’ teams, and theatrical groups that will have empty spaces. So, don’t sit on the dock. Think about how to add your strength because we need you.