

Thank you, Matthew.

It is such a pleasure to be here to congratulate the class of 2009 for all of your accomplishments. Today is a wonderful day for you, your families, friends and teachers.

Before I begin, I would like to take a moment to thank many people who have a special connection to the Harbor School and Governors Island.

I would like to recognize your principal, Nate Dudley, and Murray Fisher, whom I have had the opportunity to know well over the past several years as they worked to bring the Harbor School to Governors Island. I would also like to thank Richard Kahan, whose vision and commitment helped make the Harbor School a reality.

And I would also like to thank Ronay Menschel, who has been a great advocate for your school. We are grateful for all that she did to make Governors Island your school's future home.

I would like to start by officially welcoming the Harbor School to Governors Island!

As many of you know, the Harbor School will open here next year. And while you did not have the opportunity to attend classes in the building behind us, I hope that you feel that Governors Island has been a part of your school experience.

As students of this school, you have learned a great deal about New York Harbor, our environment, marine engineering, aquaculture, and so much more.

You have become incredible stewards and advocates of the Harbor, and also of Governors Island.

On Governors Island, we like to say that we are bringing Governors Island back to life, and knitting it back into the fabric of New York City.

When I was speaking to Mr. Fisher about addressing your class today, he told me that you were all given the opportunity to choose where you would have your graduation, and you chose Governors Island. Even though you did not have the opportunity to go to school in the building behind us, Governors Island will always be a part of the Harbor School, and of your

Thank you very much, and congratulations to each and each one of you.