Welcome Trinity class of 2023! I don’t know about you, but I’m still tired from all that square dancing yesterday! While that was certainly one type of challenge, today I want to offer you a different one: I challenge each one of you to create your own high school experience.

In my time at Trinity, I’ve found that it’s easy to want to be like others. While I believe having role models is great, trying to be just like them can be rather limiting. Luckily, my one semester of ceramics class in ninth grade offered me a new approach for high school. In this class, I learned the value and fun of shaping clay in different ways, without trying to make it look like someone else’s and without using a mold. Though one of the pieces I made exploded in the kiln, I left that class with some truly original pottery.

As you start your time at Trinity, I hope you remember that there is no one path to going through high school. There are no five or five-hundred different paths. In fact, I believe there is not even an infinite number of paths from which you may choose. This is because there is no path until you create one. Now this might seem intimidating, but I hope at some point you come to feel it as liberating as well. I am sure that all of you will struggle at some point in the next four years in someway or another, but it is these moments that remind us there is no good track or bad track, no right track or wrong track. It is only what you will make of your experiences that will determine how satisfied you are by the end. I wish everyone of you all my best, as you go on to forge unique paths, and find yourself feeling fulfilled, four years from now, as you look back on how your path has unfolded.