As each class speaker stepped to the podium at the annual Eighth Grade Celebration, held June 8 in Berger Hall, it became apparent that the Class of 2016 is ready to make the transition to the Upper School.

Each speaker, in his and her own way, promoted a theme of looking ahead, of being prepared for the future, thanks to their years in the Middle School.

“Beautiful garden”
Jack Lattimore (‘16) welcomed the guests to the morning program with a speech comparing his classmates to a “beautiful garden.”
“The Middle School is the time where the seeds are planted,” he said. “We give thanks to our parents, friends and faculty who gave us many gardening tips.”

Henna Judge (‘16) focused on how this celebration is a means to an end. “Recently, during final exams my mom said to me, ‘Two more weeks, and you’ll be done.’” But, metaphorically eyeing the Upper School across the quad from Berger Hall, Judge added, “We’re not done; we’re just beginning.”

Draw own conclusions
During Ava Rosenbaum’s (‘16) turn to speak, she reminded those gathered that she and her classmates are ready for the next step in their CA journey.

“Can I? These two simple words when put together can create self-doubt,” she said. “Can I give a speech to an audience of about 589 people? Can I come to conclusions on my own?”

Answering her questions on behalf of the Class of 2016, Rosenbaum said they were ready for anything and they had no self-doubt. “Because of our parents and teachers we can figure out things for ourselves and draw our own conclusions,” she said.

Moving performances
During the event, students entertained the audience. Among the performers were Braden Saba (‘16), who played his own composition *Sincerely, Braden*; Sarah Godwin (‘16) and Sarah Sanchez (‘16), who sang *Beautiful*; Julia Glass (‘16), who sang *Long Live*, accompanied on the ukulele by Lydia Eisenbeis; and Niara Webb (‘16) and Micaela Rosen (‘16), who sang *For Good*.

LACE, comprised of Alexandra Kadis (‘16), Carly Lupton-Smith (‘16) and Audrey Daley (‘16), performed its own song, *Making It Big*.

Tight group
After the graduation, students hugged, posed for big group pictures and mugged for the cameras. Some even shed a few tears of happiness.

Caught in this churning sea of celebration, Aron Rash (‘16) offered a reason for the effusive joy displayed among the Class of 2016.

“Everyone knows each other well, and we all hang out and get along really well,” he said. “It just makes this class special. Next year, I’m looking forward to making even closer friendships and getting to know the people I know better. And I’m looking forward to having new kids join our group.”

The Class of 2016 starts the ninth grade Aug. 15.
From CA to the World Ballet
Rising eighth-grader competes in international event in Orlando

For a dancer, it doesn’t get much better than this.
Tori Banks (’17) competed in the World Ballet Competition (WBC) held May 29-June 3 in Orlando, FL.

Broadcast live around the world
For Banks, her journey to the WBC began in the fall of 2011 with her coach, Miguel Campaneria of the International Ballet Academy (IBA). Banks learned and rehearsed two classical ballet variations and a contemporary piece for the potential to compete in the WBC. In February 2012, she submitted a DVD audition to the WBC, and in March she was accepted to compete in the Preparatory Division (ages 12-13).

To get ready for the competition, Banks took daily classes at IBA in ballet, jazz, variations and partnering. She also spent many hours on Saturdays rehearsing with the International Ballet Company (IBC), and she spent several hours on Sundays rehearsing her competition pieces with Campaneria. As WBC approached, Banks trained additional hours during the week and on the weekends.

The WBC accepted dancers (ages 9-22) from around the world. The dancers competed over several days in competition rounds. After performing for a world-renowned panel of judges, competitors were selected for the final round where they won cash prizes, scholarship offers, jobs with professional ballet companies, and international recognition. In addition, the WBC was broadcast live to viewers across the globe.

Will compete in 2013
Banks did not make it into the final round; however, she said she was inspired by the many talented dancers and the feedback from the judges. According to Banks, one of the WBC judges told her, “It’s the experience, training, feedback and exposure you gain most from the competition.”

Training with IBA this summer
Though this was Banks first-year competing, going toe-to-toe with the many competitors who had previous competition experience has emboldened her to continue training for competitions in 2013. This summer, she will train at IBA with her instructors and coaches, Campaneria, Rossana Nesta Gahagan and Haydee Gutierrez.

Chargers compete at New Balance in Greensboro

Eight Cary Academy track and field athletes competed in the New Balance Outdoor Nationals, held June 16-19 at NC A&T in Greensboro. Top-ranking high school athletes from across the country gathered at this event. Athletes had to earn qualifying times to apply for the meet.

Bailey competes in two events
Thomas Graham (’12) competed in the Championship Boys 2 Mile earning a second-place medal with a personal record (PR) time of 8:56.56.

Allison Bailey (’12), Emily Barrus (’12), Kourtney Dworsky (’12) and Alma Nyang’oro (’14) competed in the Emerging Elite Girls Sprint Medley Relay (100-100-200-400) with a time of 1:54.85.

Bailey also competed in the Girls Emerging Elite 100m Hurdles with a time of 15.58 seconds.


Jonathan Avery (’14) competed in the Freshman 100m Dash with a PR of 11.56 seconds, and Josh Mitchell (’14) competed in the Freshman Boys 1 Mile with a PR of 4:39.32.

Honors to Graham, Morgus
Thomas Graham (’12), who also ran cross country for CA, has been named Male Athlete of the Year by The Cary News and a Player of the Year for boys’ cross country by The News and Observer.

Graham, an all-American in cross country, set a number of records this year. He became the first four-time boys’ or girls’ NCISAA cross country champion, winning this year’s title by 41 seconds. He became the ninth North Carolina boys’ runner to break the 15-minute mark in a cross country race, doing so at Charlotte’s McAlpine Park (14:52), then finished ninth in the nation at the Footlocker National cross country meet. Graham will run for Stanford.

CA tennis star Haleigh Morgus (’12) has been named Player of the Year in girls’ tennis by The News and Observer.

She went 18-2 in singles and 20-1 in doubles and was the NCISAA 3A runner-up. Morgus will play tennis at Loyola University of Maryland.
SHINING EXAMPLES OF EXCELLENCE
A faculty/staff spotlight

For 11 years now, Yiying Qiao has been helping CA music students to heights of individual achievement and has been leading the Cary Academy orchestra to impressive state and national honors.

Qiao, the CA orchestra director and string teacher, calls music “a most important, integral part of my life.”

“It is my great appreciation to work with the young people of Cary Academy and to watch them grow day by day,” he added. “During teaching I am able to compose or rearrange the music to discover the sounds that are in my dreams. Working with young people makes me feel young, and I never know how old I am.”

Kennedy Center in 2013

Qiao teaches Middle School and Upper School orchestra classes. “I also teach violin and viola instrumental lessons and serve as advisor to the Upper School Share the Music and Chamber Music clubs. I also organize and prepare students for all state and regional competitions.”

And at those competitions, Qiao has led the CA orchestra to many outstanding performances. He is already excited about next year’s competitions.

“We have received two very exciting invitations for the 2012-2013 school year,” he said. “We will perform at the North Carolina Music Educator’s Conference in November 2012 in Winston-Salem and at the Kennedy Performing Arts Center in April 2013 in Washington, D.C.”

Symphony member

In addition to teaching music, Qiao also plays. He has played violin and viola in numerous symphony orchestras over the past two decades, including the Shanghai Philharmonic, James Madison University (JMU) Symphony Orchestra and Chamber Orchestra, New York Staten Island Philharmonic, Longby Philharmonic in Myrtle Beach, and the NC Opera House Philharmonic.

He also is the music director and conductor for the Triangle Chinese Youth Orchestra, a position he has held since 2002.

Qiao earned his bachelor’s degree in music from Shanghai Conservatory of Music and his master’s in music from JMU in Virginia. He has lived in Morrisville since 2001. Besides music, he lists his hobbies as traveling, movies, and fishing.

Mizelle is all smiles during the opening day handshake ceremony.

For years now, Sara Mizelle has made learning French for Cary Academy students as easy as un, deux, trois.

She taught one class of Upper School French her first year, but has been a fixture of the Middle School since 1998.

An Ubuntu coordinator

“I teach Novice, Novice-High, and Intermediate-Low French in the Middle School,” she said. “I also am a production assistant for the Middle School plays and Middle and Upper School musicals. I have sponsored Games Club and Cookie Club and was a JV cheerleader sponsor many moons ago.”

In addition to all those duties, Mizelle helps coordinate the Ubuntu Celebration.

In 2008 outgoing Director of Diversity and Inclusivity Shani Barrax Moore worked with Mizelle to expand the International Festival, which Mizelle had coordinated, to both the Middle and Upper Schools. With the expansion came a name change to Ubuntu, which is a South African phrase meaning “I am because you are, you are because I am.”

Ubuntu is now held every year in the Middle School and on the off years of Career Connections in the Upper School.

Another language, another adventure

“What I most enjoy about my job are the connections with people, with students, colleagues and parents,” said Mizelle.

“I love language, speaking, reading, writing, grammar and vocabulary — all of it! And I love working with young people. I strongly believe that studying another language opens your mind to new ideas, cultures and thinking. It strengthens and furthers your understanding and appreciation of your native language and culture and is great mental exercise. It takes discipline and commitment to excel in language.”

When away from CA, Mizelle enjoys running, swimming, seeing concerts/plays, traveling, and “being with my friends and family.”

The Chapel Hill resident earned her bachelor of arts in French and speech communications from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
From the Silk Roads to the halls of the Middle School

The sixth grade held its annual Museum of World Cultures in the Middle School on the morning of June 7. The theme this year was The Silk Roads: The First Worldwide Web.

Cultural diffusion

“We chose the Silk Roads because it was an early web of cultures that shared resources, goods and ideas from the Pacific Ocean across Asia into North Africa and Europe,” explained social studies department Chair Matthew Ripley-Moffitt.

“The linking of peoples and places led to cultural diffusion — the exchange of goods and ideas when two or more cultures come into contact — which is a main theme of our World Cultures curriculum. The central Asian cultures and places are new information for our students, yet closely related enough to other Asian and Middle Eastern parts of our curriculum to seem somewhat familiar. We wanted to move to a more individual research and presentation format that highlighted their transfer of skills to these new areas in a capstone-type project. We were very pleased with the energy, excitement, results and creative presentations. We felt that the goals of discovery, innovation, collaboration and excellence were well met.”

Students merge their skills

“Students enthusiastically shared the results of their own research using presentation formats that they selected,” said social studies instructor Katie Moore. “We had a little bit of everything: quiz games, models, Google Sketch-Up displays, magazines and brochures, hanging mobiles, faux postcards, and even interactive puppet displays and musical instruments that our guests could try. Students were able to incorporate the skills they’ve learned this year in both World Cultures and Language Arts, as well as skills from science, math, foreign language and the arts.”