

Jenna Hoskins – Salutatorian Speech

I want to start off by saying thank you to every teacher, staff member, and family member who made tonight possible. I think I can speak on behalf of my whole class and say that we are incredibly thankful for each and every person in this room. Now, class of 2019. We've endured a lot together. Countless math and bible teachers over the years, 32+ pages of Wilson's papers, and we literally had every single underclassman tell us that they won't miss us at Olympics. That's gotta be some kind of accomplishment.

We really have endured a lot over these last four years. I think many of us made plans for these last couple years would go and I think we can all agree that we couldn't have predicted how our high school years turned out. When I thought about what I wanted to speak on tonight, making plans and being in control is a topic that came to my mind a lot, and I think it is something that will come up in our lives continuously as we enter into this new season. It also just so happens that the message at my church was on this particular topic a couple weeks ago, and I thought the verses used were quite fitting. Mark 4:35-41 tells the story of Jesus and the disciples sailing on a boat across the sea of Galilee when a windstorm arises. I'm sure the disciples had plans for how this boat ride was gonna go, and I would bet that a giant storm was not part of them. This storm was so big and intense that it had even the most experienced fishermen in a panic, and Jesus was in the back of the boat sleeping. I would guess that most, if not all of us, will be in the exact same situation in the next few months. We are making plans for college, picking our roommates, and making all sorts of decisions about next year. Without any notice, a storm will hit us and have us in a panic. We'll be wondering why Jesus isn't obeying our plan. But have we not learned in our four or more years of Christian education that God has a plan for our lives? Proverbs 16:9 says, "The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes

his steps.” The storm, in the disciples’ case and in ours, is a part of God’s plan for us. He was using it to show his glory. Before freshman year began, I was enrolled at a different high school, had a set of friends, had all my classes picked, and had planned out exactly how my life was going to go from there. As you’ve probably figured out by me standing up here, the Lord had a different plan for me. I enrolled at Gilbert Christian the week before school started, didn’t know a soul, and I felt completely lost in God’s plan for me. It felt like Jesus was sleeping in the back of my boat. God was trying to take me to a place I would have never gone if it weren’t for the storm. I’m now able to stand up here and show what God has done in my life since I came to this school. In Mark 4:39, Jesus stands up and rebukes the wind, and everything is calm again. I think we forget that Jesus was in the boat with them the whole time. There was never a time in that storm, or your storm that you’re in now or you’re going to be in, where Jesus isn’t in control. Jesus is the one who invited the disciples out sailing, and he knew exactly how that day would turn out. We are about to enter into a new and somewhat scary season of our lives, and we are all trying to do our best and plan for what comes next. Jesus may be preparing us to enter into a storm that we never anticipated. But just remember, Jesus is always in the boat with you, he’ll never be blindsided, and you’ll never be facing that storm alone. Thank you.