

**Evergreen Charter School**  
**17<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**  
**A Dream Built by Community**  
**January 13, 2025**  
**Remarks by Sarah Brewster**

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Evergreen started as a small idea—a simple dream. Today, as we celebrate our 17th anniversary, that dream is a reality because of the power of community. We've learned that when we work as a team, we can achieve greatness.

Our goal was never just about academics. We wanted to provide a foundation for success in high school and college, but also a foundation of values to ground you. We want you to care for yourselves and others, to resolve challenges through dialogue rather than violence, and to remember that we are all connected in the "web of life."

As we celebrate today, I challenge you: how can you make a difference? Each of you has unique gifts and talents. Use them to "spark good."

I often quote Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who asked, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, what are we doing for others?"

Today, I want to share a new quote from the Spanish poet Antonio Machado: "*Hoy es siempre todavía*." This translates to "Today is always still." It means that today is the perfect time to start. You can begin a good habit or decide to be your best self right now, and that choice can stay with you always.

Today, Evergreen is over 1,200 students strong. Some of you are sitting in a brand-new building that was once a dream we hadn't even dared to imagine. This happened because of the hard work and support we received from the Board, staff, families and students. Now, I ask: what will your contribution be?

I want to share another quote I saw that was in a school building. It goes something like this:

Remember:

- Some people may be smarter or have "cooler" clothes.
- Some may be better at sports.
- **It doesn't matter.**
- Be the person who is generous.
- Be the person who is happy for others.
- Be the person who stands up for those who are down.
- Be the person who does the right thing.

To our students, parents, and staff: thank you for making this dream a reality. *Gracias*. We still have many dreams to achieve, and we will reach them together. Be the best you can be—for yourself and for the world.

Happy 17th Anniversary, Evergreen!