

Alpha Executive Director & Vice President, Lucas; Ambassador & Speaker of the House, Mason; Meteorologist-Astronomer & Sergeant at arms, Naomi; members of our 5S Senate - Even #'s; our 5S House of Representatives - odd #'s; and to all our Driscoll fellow citizens, I am happy and grateful to be with you on this 8th day of March :, 2024. In truth, I am happy to be with you every day!

As I look around, I see a group of people who are full of humor, curiosity, kindness, and minds as far-reaching as the blue sky we finally have after days and days of rain. There is so much to celebrate. Where do I begin? How about from the beginning of this year?

5S, from the moment you stepped foot into room 302 at the old Driscoll School, we all knew it was temporary. We knew in a matter of weeks we would be moving to the new Driscoll School, but did that make you shy away from learning about our complicated classroom systems? No. You learned each of the jobs and pillows, cushions and furniture that go with the job. You learned everyone's class numbers, our daily colors and assignments that go with them, the many jingles for morning meetings, how to fill in the chronicler sheet, and where all the string lights are turned on. You learned how to greet teachers in the morning, fill in the headline story and how to give shout outs, dismissals and toe taps on Fridays. And then we moved and so much changed. We lost Reggie and Tabitha (the tables) and all our desks that lift. Did I complain? Yes. I struggled. But you handled it with grace. I will forever be grateful for your ability to adapt to the many changes and challenges.

Every day, no matter how much demolition was happening outside our new room, you would shift from watching the rapid changes to completing math problems, science experiments and writing projects. You would make the best of our limited outdoor space and head out on our recess adventures with an open mind and so much joy. Even when things were rough, you made every day a good day. Why? You care. You are honest, determined and gung-ho. I adore each and every one of you.

You have grown in many ways. You are better able to improvise answers and share your thoughts even if they are different from your peers. Rather than looking down at people who have different interests, I have watched you get inspired. You have so much brewing in you. My socks have been knocked off by your poetry, metaphors, artwork, team posters, FSC comments, muse spots, bird drawings, research questions, Tuesday newsday insights, and willingness to ask deep questions. I have watched many of you become fans of topics that you used to dislike. All of this is because you, 5S, have been working hard and stepping into challenges rather than avoiding them.

Substitutes always tell me that it is a pleasure to work with you. You know the drill. I can trust you. We support each other. Our classroom has little things all over it you have improved. So on this 8th day of March, I say to you the state of our 5S union is strong and getting stronger!

Do we have work to do? Each of us knows the answer is... of course! Everyone has challenges to meet. There are days when our cozy classroom is left a mess. There are moments when people are so busy having side conversations or being boisterous in the hall or lunchroom that they don't notice who they are disrupting or ignoring. There are times when people don't bother to read, look or listen to what their peers or teachers are trying to communicate. I ask you now, can we make things better? Can we turn our chairs and bodies to look at who is speaking? Can we get ourselves organized before we rush to the next event? Can we help each other accomplish these goals? The answer, without a doubt, is yes.

Before I leave, I'd like to give each of you these light but effective binoculars. They are a *symbol* and reminder to pay attention to the world - the flora and fauna -and to each other. It can be hard to see how far a good deed can go, but I say to you today, now is always the perfect time to try.

For P.S. Work; You could write your own state of 5S union as *a response* to my speech. First read over my speech. Read it more than once.

- Write tracks of your thinking next to each paragraph.
- Next, start your response with the following words;

“Thank you Madam President for your speech. After reading over what you said, I would like to respond with my own State of the Union response”

Then, please do the following:

1. Formerly greet your fellow congress
2. Focus on what is positive about our class. Be specific. Give examples that are true for you.
3. Next, focus on how you are changing or how you have seen the class change.
4. Last, you should focus on goals for yourself and/or the class. Remember to use specific details to support your ideas.
5. End with words of encouragement.
 - It must be written in paragraph form
 - It must be written using complete sentences.

Review all directions above. Add or clarify your ideas. Due Thursday. Friday at the latest.

Go over CONVENTIONS: REVIEW to make sure you have the following:

- CAPITALS at the beginning of sentences
- Proper PARAGRAPHS
- Proper PUNCTUATION: periods, commas, question marks, quotation marks, apostrophes, etc.
You need a space between punctuation and the next word.
- SPELLING corrected
- GOOD GRAMMAR
for example, subject/verb agreement
- TENSES match
 - please stay in past tense - present is hard