

# *Brookwood Christian School*

## *2017 Valedictory*

*May 26, 2017*

The 2017 class of Brookwood Christian thanks you for sharing this special evening with us. We made it this far because of the love and support of our parents and families.

I remember orientation. To be honest, when my mother told me I was coming to Brookwood, I wasn't happy. I thought it was too small and didn't have a lot of activities. When I graduated from 8th grade, I constantly told my parents that I wanted to go to a big high school, with a basketball team. Back then, all I cared about was playing basketball, and cheerleaders. I told my mom that I did not want to go to this school. She said: "Just give it a year, if you don't like it, we'll find another school."

After my freshman year, we did not find another school. Do you want to know why? Because I loved it. I love everybody here, like they are my family. I also found activities; I played baseball for Sandy Plains and Acworth Warriors. I also joined Elm Street Cultural Arts Village.

Being a student at Brookwood Christian made me realize that it's not about what kind of school you go to, it's about whether or not you learn the material. All the classes I have taken here have taught me that just because something is hard, doesn't mean that it's impossible to learn.

I'd like to thank Mr. Jerry, Ms. Tammy, Ms. Noelle, and Ms. Alicia for all the help in math. Math has been one of my hardest subjects and I just want to thank them for answering all of my questions, no matter how many times I ask them.

Ms. Alicia, thank you for letting me stay after class to finish up all my math work.

And Mr. Kenyatta, I really enjoyed his law classes and he's also a fun person to talk to.

Ms. Deb, the high school trips will always be my favorite memories. Each trip was better than the last.

Ms. Nadiya, the walks have always helped me get things off my mind. Whether I was stressed because of too much homework, or preparing for an exam, they always helped.

Ms. Terri, I'm going to miss you. I enjoyed your history class. I'm going to miss dress up days for each decade we studied. For the past three years in your class, I had assignments and tests I struggled with, but your encouragement made me a better and stronger student. You pushed me to do better and you were fair and understanding. I want to thank you for that.

And finally, Mr. Kevin, you pushed me to do better. Being in your class made me realize that I could do more than I thought I could. When I was in 8th grade, we read the book "To Kill a Mockingbird", and I just hated it. I thought it was too long, the words were too hard to understand. I even told Mr. Kevin how much I hated the book. He said: "When you read it a second time, you'll love it." He was right. I loved it because he taught us how to summarize and understand stories.

When we finished "To Kill a Mockingbird", I couldn't stop thinking about it. Mr. Kevin showed me how reading helps understand people: we talked about character traits, what makes a character a character, and understanding different points of view. I thank you for your patience and answering every single question I had.

I also want to thank my friends for always making me feel welcome. I lived in Louisville, Kentucky for eleven years, and I lived here in Acworth for four years. If someone ever asked me: "Who were your best friends?" or "Who are the people you would never want to forget?" I would say: "The students at Brookwood Christian." I love you guys, because back in Louisville, I always felt like an outsider. At my middle school, I did have friends, but I've never been a part of a close group like I am now. When I came here, you guys let me be a part of your group. You guys let me be part of that special connection. I'm going to miss all of the smiles, the laughs, the high-fives, telling me what's "new", and being asked about when I'm not around.

I also want to thank my father. I want to thank you for all your great advice. You are the reason why I never give up on something.

And most importantly, my mother. Mom, I always enjoyed having you around any school I attended. You're funny, understanding, a great person to talk to, and you're everybody's "favorite". Thank you for always believing in me and understanding what's best for me.

And for my sister Taylor, you are my best friend, and I love you.

Lastly, I want to thank Ms. Kim for creating a school where no one has to be afraid to be themselves, or feel ashamed for learning differently.

I just want to thank God for helping me through this journey, and my parents, my family, my friends, and the teachers. Brookwood Christian has been a second home to me.

Thank You!

*Donovan Theodore*