

## School Commencement

Good morning my dear teachers and students, I'm Mr. Ho.

I'm glad that this year we can have a physical gathering in the hall to commence our new school year.

I hope everyone is fine and healthy in all aspects despite the super short summer vacation in August.

Though we are still being threatened by Covid-19, I think we've got to move forward and have a brand new start. This year, we have some new areas of focus, by which I mean our school's major concerns. From this year onwards, the following 3 concerns are what we are striving to address in the coming 3 years. They are:

**Major Concern 1: To grow and learn together in God's love**

**Major Concern 2: To provide care and promote values education**

**Major Concern 3: To develop creative thinking skills in learning and teaching**

Clearly, the first one is about putting our faith into practice. We would like everybody to love one another with the love of God. The second one is mainly focusing on "positive education". We would like all of you to think positively. And last but not least, in learning and teaching, we would like to cultivate in students creative thinking skills, which will enable us to face future challenges. This year, your teachers and I will further elaborate on the 3 major concerns.

Another new thing is in our school theme. What is our school theme this year?

It is:

**Rejoicing at 40 years of God's grace and fellowship, and sparking future educational innovation**  
(感恩同行四十載，積極創新迎未來).

Yes, with God's grace, our school has reached its 40th anniversary. Within this year, we're having different activities such as Open Day, Ball Games, Thanksgiving Service, Banquet, Variety Show and so on, to celebrate with all of you. I Hope that you'll join us and rejoice!

Let's come back to your new learning this year.

At the beginning of a new school year, I suggest that you consider some self-reflection.

- 1) How was your learning last year? Was it a fruitful year? Or a disaster? What contributed to this?
- 2) Did you do anything to strengthen your foundations during the summer? Was it effective?
- 3) With a new year, you're one year older and smarter. What goals will you set for yourself? How are you going to achieve these goals?

Boys and girls, do face your real situation; don't try to dodge it. Those who are aware of their real condition have the courage to face their problems and have a higher chance of steadily improving themselves.

If your situation is worrying, and you are far behind the proper learning path and have no motivation to learn, or feel unhappy no matter what you do, or if you are depressed, please do not ignore these signs. Avoiding your feelings doesn't help you. Instead, you should try to address the problem and seek help from others.

Where can you go for help? You may turn to your parents, your teachers, your friends, or anyone you trust.

Where will my help come from? The Jews asked the same question in Psalms. And they know that their help came from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth. HE will not let your foot slip. HE will watch over you day and night. HE will keep you from all harm. And HE will watch over your life. Do turn yourself to him through prayers.

Let's pray.

Dear Lord, thank you for being our source of help. Open our eyes so that we can see you. Open our hearts so that we can put our faith on you and are willing to seek for your help. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen!