

Opening Assembly Remarks by Head of Middle School Chris Dunham

Good morning, Browning teachers and Browning gentlemen. It's great to look out at all of you. You're taller, smarter, wiser, rejuvenated, ready to go. I'm feeling the same way minus the taller and perhaps the smarter. Wiser, I hope so. Rejuvenated and ready to go? Without question. I had a terrific summer, spending the bulk of it in Northern California with my family. That means plenty of outdoor time, eating well, camping and fishing with my sons, swimming every day – especially with my daughter Lila, 10 months now – and getting lots of exercise in general. I am on my mountain bike every day, and I love it.

And here we are, ready to go. What an exciting time to be at Browning! The facility is changing right before our eyes. Our long awaited, new cafeteria is a showcase; it's just beautiful, and up and running. And now, our library and tech center is complete. I am so excited for all of us to use it. The life of the mind and 21st century innovation is alive at Browning! John Dewey would be proud of us.

Another crucial aspect of the Browning experience is equally alive. It is something that I brought up with the fifth graders and other new Middle School boys yesterday at orientation. It falls under the realm of citizenship and respect, and I want to point out to all of you what I said to the new Middle School boys: I reiterated how being new at Browning is not so daunting because you can always count on your fellow students – your brothers if you will – to help guide you, answer questions and set positive examples. Browning is a place where five-year-olds walk the halls and climb the stairs with 18-year-olds. To pull that off, there has to be respect among the ages and the understanding that the School counts on you all to be good citizens and show each other respect. Browning is a place where older boys really set the tone and lead by example. We would not be the school we are today without the underlying presence of good citizenship.

So, I leave you with these reminders: we strive to be a school of the mind, a school of innovation and creativity, a school of scholar athletes, and also a school of the Browning gentleman. Thank you, have a great year, and GO PANTHERS!