

January 2012 Open House: President's Welcoming Speech

Sophia Han

Good afternoon and Welcome to Fontbonne! My name is Sophia Han and I am President of the Student Activities Council. Just four short years ago, I was sitting in your seat, trying to pick the perfect high school to attend and now I am experiencing the same feelings of excitement and nervousness after recently finishing the college application process. Soon you will be starting a whole new chapter in your life and I know that Fontbonne is the place where that chapter will certainly be an amazing one, filled with great learning, extraordinary friends and unforgettable memories.

When I was a middle school student, I had originally wanted to go to a large public high school because I wanted a drastic change from the small catholic schools that I had known my entire life. After talking with my parents and learning more about my options, I ultimately picked Fontbonne and I can say with confidence, that it has been the best decision I have ever made. Looking in hindsight, I needed the small classrooms and crucial one on one attention that Fontbonne offered which helped me flourish both academically and socially.

Over these past four years, Fontbonne has truly become my second home. When I come to school every day, I feel a strong sense of belonging and support from my Fontbonne family. Fontbonne is able to achieve that family like environment because we are a small, caring school that fosters a true "tight-knit family feel." We proudly live up to our famous tagline "Where Everybody Knows Your Name" and I can personally vouch for this. I recall walking into my Freshmen Orientation in the summer of 2008, knowing the names of about 10 students, and after playing all the fun games and activities I left orientation knowing the names of the majority of the girls in my class. Within the first few days of my freshmen year, not only did all my teachers

know my name but even teachers that didn't have me in class also knew me. I quickly learned that at Fontbonne, you will never be just another person lost in the crowd.

The Fontbonne family environment allows each and every student to grow in various aspects. From the multitude of clubs, sports and activities you can participate in to the challenging academics, you will never be bored at Fontbonne. Whether you enjoy singing or photography, you will be able to find classmates who share in your interests and teachers who support you every step of the way. The teachers here not only teach you physics and geometry but they also teach you life lessons. They go above and beyond to make sure you understand the material. Their patience, dedication, and willingness to assist each student truly make them so special.

I own much of my success to my Fontbonne family and they have helped me become the young woman I am today. At Fontbonne, I was able to excel academically, meet brilliant educators, build wonderful friendships and make memories that will last me a lifetime. As I end this chapter of my life that you are only now starting, I cannot express to you all that Fontbonne has given me. I can say with certainty that I made the right decision in choosing to attend Fontbonne. I am where I was always meant to be. Good luck with making this very important decision and I wish you success in wherever you choose to go. I would now like to introduce to you, our Principal, Sister Dolores Crepeau.