

One of the most pleasurable parts of my job as head of school is the opportunity that I have to meet and speak with our alumni on a regular basis. Over the last five years I have noticed a pattern to these conversations that span each of the six decades the school has been in existence, and I thought I would share some of the things that I expect I will be hearing from our seniors 10 to 20 years from now.

Invariably our conversation will include a few of the following:

§ Seniors, this may surprise you, but you will tell me that we should always keep the weekly household job and work crew programs. Because over the past decade or two you have drawn upon the skills and work ethic that was nurtured by them. You may – if you have heard him say it – share with me that you agree with Jim Gaw and his assessment that so much of life is just about maintenance, and that you learned how to do this here.

§ Many of you will share with me that our 10 day wilderness orientation remains an incredible memory, as were some of the trips that you went on in the fall and spring in which the weather was tough, or you did more than you thought capable. It was during these trips that you forged tight friendships with your peers and established important connections with your faculty leaders.

§ One of you senior boys from the Lodge will tell me that you were recently on campus and checked out your old room and were dismayed at either it being too clean – accusing me of hiring maids when people should learn to clean up after themselves, OR that it wasn't as clean as it was when you were here - and that the school's expectations have clearly changed.

§ It often happens that you ask me if a particular teacher is still at Colorado Rocky Mountain School. Often it is because they inspired you in a deep and profound way – and you comment that every class was fully engaging, or that you couldn't have made it without them. But there are an equal amount of times when I expect to hear that you really hated a teacher, because they were always on you for something, but now you can see in hindsight that they were only expecting the best from you, and that you are successful today, because of the attention they gave to you.

§ Finally, you will tell me that when you went to college and told everyone about your high school, everyone responded that they wished they had been at a school like that.

While no person, no group of people, and no place is always perfect, this school will continue to shape your views and your roles within the world far beyond this graduation ceremony. I expect that you will find that your CRMS education is really not going to end here, but that you will be taking with it important skills, knowledge, and memories that will remain with you for the rest of your life.