

Today, we the faculty, staff, and student body of Jefferson City Public Schools are very pleased to be able to say ‘Welcome’ to YOU, and to thank YOU for the contribution that YOU bring with you from your own backgrounds...be it your skills, your talents, your customs, and of course...your Bravery, which it undoubtedly takes, along with enthusiasm, to embrace life in a different country. But we also want to thank you for what you have already contributed to this country and your community and what you WILL endeavor to contribute as you continue your life here. Bringing together different cultures, ideas and backgrounds allows us to develop new friendships, forge new beginnings, and be able to develop a deeper understanding of ourselves, and each other.

This day is a very special day for you as the candidates for citizenship who are with us from all around the globe, and I am very pleased to welcome you...together with your friends and family who have joined us in The Miller Performing Arts Center to witness this joyful milestone in your lives. The decision to apply to become a citizen is one you did not take lightly, and today is a major event in your life and that of your family. The oath you will soon take is a solemn personal undertaking and I know it is something you take very seriously. As you leave here today, as proud new citizens of this great nation, our history is your history and the narrative of your life is now part of ours. It is with great pride that I stand here today, being able to share in a small piece of the long journey all of you have taken, and say MY FELLOW AMERICANS...WELCOME TO YOU ALL.

Thank you.

