

## Inspirational Words of Wisdom

The ISM program has interested me ever since middle school when students from the high school would bring in their presentations and talk about the amazing things they accomplished with the help of their mentors. Four years later, the ISM journey has finally begun.

The year was kicked off with a guest lecturer-- Ms. Julie Martin Leslie. She came into our school to talk about finding one's passion. As she talked it became increasingly more clear that she spoke from experience, for she was obviously quite passionate about helping students and giving them advice. She was formerly the starter of the ISM program at Liberty and Wakeland High School in Frisco, Texas. Because of personal reasons, she had to quit working for Frisco ISD and she took a risk in starting her own mentoring business. Ms. Julie Martin Leslie asked us each what we planned to focus on in the ISM program this year. She then continued with her speech and returned to this topic a few slides later. She asked us, "What would you try if you knew you couldn't fail?"

This was an interesting question to ponder. Architecture has been a passion of mine for a couple of years, but I also have passions for other things. Musical theatre, for example, is another thing that I love. Ms. Martin's question got me to think about what I would do differently everyday if I knew that I could not fail. It was rather inspirational. I set my mind right then and there that through every step of the ISM process, I would put myself out there and take risks in order to grow in ways that would be impossible without a bit of a risk.