Thank you for meeting us today. As most of you know, my name is Mikayla Gephart. I am 13 years old and I was born blind. My diagnosis is Optic Nerve Hypoplasia. In simple terms, the nerve that sends the message to the brain to see is not there. It is like the cable that goes to your tv. Without the cable, the tv would not work. Every blind person is different. I may be able to see shadows, but I prefer that no one asks me if I can see this or that. The best help that I need is for every one to say who they are to me. Also, if there are any drawers in your room, they can be dangerous for me if they are left open. When I come in class, it works best that I have the same seat all year long. I do not use my cane inside the classroom. If my desk is close to a wal, I will just put my cane against the wall, otherwise I will put it near my desk. During a fire drill, I will need to find a teacher to help me out of the building, but please find me. If paperwork is supposed to be put in a certain area of the room, please show me.

I am part of a test pilot program with a mini Ipad with a braille display which I am using now. I also use the Apex braille note, which I am quite use to. The braille note allows me to write my work and print it out, so you can read it.

I may also use the Victor Stream, which is a piece of equipment that i may record assignments that need to be done. Please feel free to ask me any and all questions that you have. Please especially talk to me if you can hear my equipment, or if you have any questions or concerns about my performance of the work. My aide is there to support me, but it is best for all of us if you talk to me directly. It is my job to make sure you feel comfortable including me in your class. Thank you!