

So I sat down to write this speech and after much contemplation, I realized that there is no way that I could say something that reaches every single one of you. I wrote and rewrote this speech, trying to pretend I was one of those speakers doing the TED talks y'know, and I tried to think about what this is all about. And then I realized, boy Morgan it really must look like you've got it all together, standing up there with your chords and your stoles and your fancy titles. I'm gonna let you in on a little secret MHS...I have no idea what I'm doing.

Now to some of you, if I have been as good of an actress as I thought, this may come as a bit of a surprise. But I have good news! I realized that it doesn't matter if you know what you're doing or not!

Let me explain.

So last summer I spent about a month in Tanzania, which for anyone who may not know that's like the right hip of Africa. Now when I was there I worked in a medical clinic and I sort of found my niche in the triaging room taking vitals and learning some Swahili. And one of the days there's this little girl that comes in and she's just cowering behind her mother's skirt. I started to approach her and I realized oh shoot, I look absolutely terrifying. I'm this 5'8" caucasian American and I am whipping out these instruments that this child has never seen before in her life. So a simple solution to the problem, I say "mambo!" -- the equivalent of 'how are ya?'. "Poa" she lets out -- 'good'. Thinking little of the interaction, I hand her a strawberry lollipop and send the duo out the door.

Now you may be saying at this point, where is this going? Okay now I pop my head into the pharmacy after we had triaged our last patient before lunch, and you know what I feel? The tiniest, *stickiest* hand slaps itself into mine and I spin my head around to see that same pair of big brown eyes that once feared me in that triage room. In that case, one word...*and* a lollipop was all it took to be someone's hero. She had no idea who I was, or what I've done before.

I've watched and heard so many of you give up on doing something or putting in the extra effort because you feel like it doesn't matter or because you're uncertain about the outcome. For so many years, I sat and watched the world around me pass by and I did nothing.

I was afraid that people wouldn't want to hear what I had to say.

Or I assumed that someone else would handle the problems.

I let other people tell me what to do and I left my dreams for tomorrow.

Tomorrow -- It's such a funny thing because you can't rely on *tomorrow* because as soon as you know it tomorrow is today and the next day is the *new* tomorrow and ultimately, tomorrow never comes. I was passionate about so many things, and I was *wasting* my time. I was *wasting* my time feeling sorry that I couldn't be some sort of super hero, when my cape was sitting right there in front of me!

You see, you don't need to know what you're doing, you don't need to go to some fancy school or have some silly title to have an impact on someone's life. I mean look around you!

Nicole Galliac, you've inspired me to be more outgoing since the sixth grade!

Brianna Bradley, you are one of the most talented artists I've seen and yet you hyped me up on my *line* painting skills on that mural.

Miguel Lopez, you have kept me sane as a fellow officer for the past 4 years, even while you've been involved in just about every program the school has to offer.

Gabi Carvalho, I will never forget the Friday night that you, among others, came to the high school to help me set up for homecoming when you easily could have let me do it on my own.

Tino Pizzarella, you light up every single room just by caring about others and wanting everyone to be happy.

And Ciara Shanahan, you have been the person to always laugh at my jokes even when we both know they aren't funny.

Every little thing you do can change someone's life, no matter who you were, or who you are, or who you're going to be. Each of us are put here for a reason. And by here I don't just mean this planet in some abstract metaphorical sense. No, I mean *here* in the position of someone's best friend, someone's child, someone's student. Every single day you wake up, and you make decisions. Sometimes they're the wrong ones and y'know what, oh well! Oh well because you have a chance to redeem yourself a million times over!

So to you, my peers, stop saying that what you do doesn't matter because it does. Stop watching the world go by you and shrugging away opportunities to make a difference. And stop giving up on your dreams because they seem unattainable right now! We are young, we can still recover from our mistakes, we bounce back against adversity. Everyone is looking to us to start coming up with the plans for something great, and we need all the help we can get to make this world a better place.

One moment is all you need to change everything.

Congratulations class of 2019, it has been an honor serving as your president for the past four years.