

Senior Gift Speech
Alex Motley

Class of 2016, we made it. Who would've thought that, as a class, we would be able to say that? Believe me when I tell you folks, I sometimes questioned if we were going to make it, even we sometimes questioned if we were going to make it, but we did. The laughs, the tears, the petty drama, the parties, the senior BBQ, you name it, we have been through it all, and on this day we have successfully survived, probably the most invigorating rollercoaster of our lives, so let us let out the sighs of relief, pat ourselves on the back, and smile.

Unfortunately on this day of celebration, we are reminded of the void that exists in this senior class. There is no silver lining to tragedy, nothing to embrace in the pain we have experienced. But tragedy forces us to be our best selves, to draw on the qualities that we hope define us as people. And over the past month we have seen those qualities in one another: our capacity for sympathy, for support, for compassion, and for unity. These are the traits we should be proudest of, whatever other achievements we are celebrating today.

And so the MBS Class of 2016 has selected a senior gift that we believe reflects those qualities. The senior class will be donating a bench that will be placed on senior circle, beneath the shade of a tree. It will be a place to rest with friends, to laugh and talk and come together; it will let future classes of MBS gather, and become rooted to the memories of the school. Time will pass, the tree will change colors; but it will endure, like our memories of our times together—our memories of what we have lost and what we have gained. Let's take a minute and look around us and feel well fortified by the unity we have established.