

Good evening, my name is Maggie Tattersfield, and to begin, I'd like to thank you for the opportunity to speak today. My classmates elected me, and this honor is something I have always wanted and never anticipated. Seniors, thank you for trusting me. I love you all.

Students, faculty, family, and friends, thank you for your listening ears for the next few moments. I hope not to bore you. I'm aware that it's unlikely that most of our guests know who I am, but I want you to know me, and I want you to know why I love Harpeth Hall. Hopefully I will be able to convince you to either send your children here, to wish you sent your children here, or to be thankful that you sent your children here.

Yesterday, at Step Singing, the senior class sang "Landslide" by Fleetwood Mac as our pass over song to the junior class. I'm sorry to report that despite receiving my invitation, Stevie Nicks sends her regrets. Nevertheless, this song has become very important to my classmates and me in the last year.

A line that sticks out to me is "Well I've been afraid of changing, because I built my life around you." This perfectly encapsulates our experience at Harpeth Hall. Whether you've been a member of the class of 2018 for eight years or two years, you are one of my 99 best friends.

It seems as if "Landslide" has been the common thread through this school year. Whether it's singing it alongside my classmates and teacher in English Literature, atop the hill of Percy Warner Park while bubbles transcend me, or even at Step Singing, these words have stuck.

I believe that each of us are a collection of our experiences, and our experience at Harpeth Hall is not just a collection of our hard work or of the hours spent on a term paper about James Joyce; rather, it is our classmates, our teachers, and an environment that not only fosters a love of learning, but also fosters a love for each other.

Very recently, close friends of mine and I were discussing love and what it means to us. Some suggested that the word is used too often. I, however, think that its use is limitless. And now, this is, in essence, what I love about Harpeth Hall.

Harpeth Hall is the same Campbell plaid uniform skirt you wear every day and wash once a week. It's the pounding of your feet when you arrive at school at 7:59 am. Class starts at 8:00, and it's the demerit that you get for being late to class. It's an open, interdisciplinary conversation that you continue even after class on your walk to the dining hall. It's teachers that not only care about the grade you got on their test, but how your piano recital went last weekend. It's the three minutes before lunch that you think your teacher is going to let you out early, but then begins to talk in detail about the protestant reformation. It's those contemplative moments as you walk through campus as the sun sets on a winter afternoon. It's the tears you share with your classmates as you watch the senior dancers perform Billy Joel's "She's Got a Way" at the spring dance concert. It's the aching of your throat as you cheer on your friends as they pass the finish line at the city track meet, or the joy of seeing your classmates cheer you on at your own extracurricular event.

Harpeth Hall is the creek and slam of the senior house door. It's the tapping of your shoes as you walk through Patton. It's Dr. Balmer's smile and cheerful words of encouragement. It's pouring down rain. It's the words written in chalk as you enter campus from the senior parking lot that read "Welcome to the best place on earth". And it's our proud privilege to sing.

To conclude, I'd like to share a quote from the woman that meant everything to us. For the 2016 issue of *Hallways*, Dr. Balmer wrote, "We want to raise powerful girls and young women who are independent thinkers and who strive each day to be their most authentic and confident selves because they know authenticity is the path to knowledge and impact." My

Harpeth Hall education is something I will always carry with pride. It will not only distinguish us among women, but also among men. Harpeth Hall has taught us to think critically, to lead confidently, and to live honorably. And to return to the aforementioned-lyric, “I built my life around you.” For last seven years, in my case, you’ve been my life. And when it comes to the seasons of our lives, as far as I’m concerned, we’ve barely made it to the spring showers.

Seniors, I built my life around you. And I never regretted a second of it.