

Pardon the Interruption. Good Morning Saxons this is Cadet Major Wesley Marshall, Executive Officer of JROTC. Please remain seated, and be prepared for my speech.

The school knows me as the one who does the pledge, while the people in my classes know me as the one always searching for ways to bring physics and math into everyday conversation. My favorite thing to reference is a symbol indifferent to a triangle named “delta.” Delta is the representation of change, and although the general population sees delta as just a mathematical symbol, I see it as a reflection of us. No matter who you are, you will undergo change. We started off as immature kids playing in sandboxes, and now we’re adults ready to enter society. Nobody could have anticipated who we would’ve become because everything changes. From the teachers who spend countless hours making us succeed, to the friends we run around with late at night. Delta is a representation of life- many things don’t stay the same. Take today as an example. The people we’ve grown up with since Kindergarten, the ones we’ve seen laugh, cry, and succeed will now leave our lives. They will be replaced with new people we meet wherever the world takes us.

The only constant over time is the memories you’ve created. The science-y part of me wants to believe that in the grand scheme of the universe these times are meaningless. However, in my mind I know that to each Senior sitting in the crowd, these memories mean everything. We remember the numerous Spirit Weeks or the insane mosh pits at the school dances. The classes where we explored our interests in, or the loud sports games year-round. These snippets of the last days of our childhood become core memories we take with us to remember the good times with the people we grew up with. These friends we had, influenced us in every way. We pursued hobbies or interests similar to theirs, and now some of these may be integral parts of who we are.

Now, we reach the divergence point of our lives and even though it's a bittersweet ending it's fitting.

I'd like to call this day "Delta Day" to represent the idea that the biggest change in our lives happens today. Your closest friend is no longer a few blocks away. Those childhood friends whose birthday parties you always went to may be halfway across the nation. We're at that point now, where we diverge into new places. The chance of this collection of people ever happening again is roughly 1 in 10 to the power of 3000. It's the end for the class of 2023. This is the last time we're here as graduating seniors, the last time we're together. Realizing this allows us to remember the good times of our childhood, and now be prepared for the new memories we create at the start of our adulthood. Today, we came together as one class, but now we leave as 436 adults ready to succeed.