DEXTER SOUTHFIELD 100

Academic Convocation

September 1, 2026

Kraft Fieldhouse

ORDER OF PROGRAM

PROCESSIONAL

NATIONAL ANTHEM
Maryn PetitBon ’28

WELCOME
Thomas Guden, Assistant Head of School

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
Julia Friedman ’27

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

READING
Ingrid Stahl ’27, School President

When I was ten years old, my mother sang at Assembly one morning at Dexter School in Brookline. She forgot the words. I thought I’d die. Miss Fiske was the Head of School. Her motto was: “Our Best Today, Better Tomorrow.” She thanked my mother much too profusely, but I never really forgave her, even if I was only ten. I did not know then how long those words would stay with me.

Many years later, after a career in journalism and after years at *The Washington Post*, I found myself thinking about what a newspaper ought to be. I’ve always had trouble developing theories of journalism that were much more sophisticated than the motto of Miss Fiske at Dexter, my old grade school: “Our Best Today, Better Tomorrow.”

Put out the best, most honest newspaper you can today, and put out a better one the next day. That was about as sophisticated a theory of journalism as I ever needed. And perhaps it is a good theory for more than journalism.

Do your best today. Be honest about what you do. And tomorrow, try to make it better.

—Excerpt and adaptation from
A Good Life: Newspapering and Other Adventures (1995),
written by Ben Bradlee, Class of 1933

READING
Jude Epstein ’27, School President

We stand today on the edge of a New Frontier—the frontier of the 1960s—a frontier of unknown opportunities and perils, a frontier of unfulfilled hopes and threats.

I tell you the New Frontier is here, whether we seek it or not.

Beyond that frontier are the uncharted areas of science and space, unsolved problems of peace and war, unconquered pockets of ignorance and prejudice, unanswered questions of poverty and surplus.

It would be easier to shrink back from that frontier, to look to the safe mediocrity of the past. But I believe the times demand new invention, innovation, imagination, and decision.

The New Frontier of which I speak is not a set of promises—it is a set of challenges. It sums up not what I intend to offer the American people, but what I intend to ask of them. I am asking each of you to be pioneers on that New Frontier.

—Excerpt from “Acceptance of the Presidential Nomination,”
delivered in 1960 by the 35th U.S. President John F. Kennedy, Class of 1929

SCHOOL DECLARATIONS
Amelia Malone ’34 Eli Hanafin ’31

We stand today with humble hearts.
We are grateful for gifts and lessons given to us without our deserving or asking, and we hope for strength and inspiration so that those about us today may be a little happier and a little better for our influence.
We hope to act according to what is right in all the duties and the pleasures of the day and so to find calm when the day is over.
Let us have clean hands, clean words, and clean thoughts.
Let us stand for the hard right against the easy wrong.
Let us avoid habits that harm.
Let us work as hard and play as fair when we are alone as if all the world saw.
Let us make amends when we are unkind and forgive those who are unkind to us.
Let us welcome, include, and learn from others so that our lives may be enriched, and everyone may belong.
Let us stay ready to help others at some cost to ourselves and take chances to do a little good every day so that we may thrive and make the world a better place.

HEAD OF SCHOOL ADDRESS
Dr. Peter F. Folan

BENEDICTION
Reverend Timothy Watrous, P ’14 ’18, Faculty

RECESSIONAL
Donald Campbell, Faculty

CLASS OF 2027 FLAG BEARERS

Brooke Allen

Patrick Bryan

Annabel Burgener

Taylor Conlon

Addie Fazen

Ethan Keleher

Tyson Kwong

Lexa Lashway

Reese Longo

Julia McDonald

Devon Moore

Ryder Morton

Ellie Saltonstall

Georgi Schenker

Charlie Sorrento

Sydney Sowles

Malik Adamson Udoh

Mary Alice Yoo