



2025-26 School Theme: *Building on the Foundations of Freedom*

FIVE STAR MESSAGE

As a seventh grader in Mr. Homan's history class, I wrote a 1,000-word essay on sacrifice. I concluded it by saying, *I hope people will continue to step forward, because when individuals become unwilling to sacrifice their personal freedom, time, and comfort, that precious liberty we all hold so dear will disappear.* While I may not have realized it then, my time at BA was building a foundation of character, knowledge, and skills that would not only inspire me to pursue an education at West Point, but also help me succeed there.

I can thank the countless days spent playing sports on the Fields of Freedom for developing a strong sense of peer leadership, something that proved invaluable as I was thrust into a variety of military leadership roles. Through sports, I learned the importance of teamwork, supporting those around me, and taking responsibility for outcomes, good or bad. Beyond the field, these lessons were reinforced in the classroom through literature and history, such as my fifth-grade recitation of Teddy Roosevelt's *Man in the Arena* speech. President Roosevelt's message, that striving for greatness often means risking failure, has stayed with me ever since.

Many of the tasks you do as a young BA student, like spelling lists or memorizing speeches, may seem daunting or even pointless at the time. My mom can attest that the weekly spelling lists were not fun for anyone involved. But memorization was one of the first skills demanded of me as a new cadet during Beast, West Point's basic training. I quickly became grateful for all those repetitions of words, phrases, and paragraphs. As a field artillery officer, I now understand what I couldn't as a Lower School student - that automatic recall can mean the difference between life and death for the soldiers I am responsible for supporting.

These are just a few of the many ways my BA education has shaped me and continues to influence my success and perseverance at West Point and wherever else the Army may send me.

~ Second Lieutenant Abby Doble, United States Army
Brookfield Academy Class of 2021
West Point Class of 2025