

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

# CITY HIGH MIDDLE SCHOOL



Thursday, May 22, 2025 at 7:00 pm  
Houseman Field | Grand Rapids, MI



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# Dear Class of 2025,

This night represents a significant milestone -- one that marks not just the end of your high school journey, but the beginning of a new chapter filled with endless possibilities.

As you step into the world beyond high school, I want to leave you with a powerful reminder: Your voice matters.

In your time here, you've grown as leaders, teammates, artists, advocates, and friends. Along the way you've gained not just knowledge from the classroom, but the courage to ask tough questions, stand up for justice, and dream without limits. Now, more than ever, our world needs those voices -- your voice -- to shape a future that is more just, more compassionate, and more united.

No matter where your path leads you, don't underestimate the impact of speaking up. Your ideas, experiences, and perspectives can challenge the status quo. They can ignite change in your community and beyond.

We are proud of the legacy you leave behind and even more excited for the story you're about to write. The world is waiting for what only you can say.

Congratulations!

Leadriane Roby, Ph.D.  
Superintendent

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## **CLASS FLOWER**

Lily

## **CLASS COLOR**

Sage Green

## **SENIOR CLASS OFFICERS**

Madisen Washington, Co-President

Anna Wetzel, Co-President

Johanne Djouguem Tchuendem, Co-Vice President

Lucia Maher, Co-Vice President

Elijah Jones, Co-Treasurer

Imara Skyers, Co-Treasurer

Taniya Patel, Co-Communications Director

Heidi Xu, Co-Communications Director

## **REGALIA KEY**



## Honors & Recognitions

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### **VALEDICTORIANS**

Tayden Beene

Eleanor Broberg

Alexander Byrnes

Evelyn Callahan

Jack de Graaf

Nola de Graaf

Johanne Djouguem Tchuendem

Miriam Dykstra

Allison Groen

Nicholas Hankins

Izabelle Iuga

Andrew Parris

Dennis Perez-Garcia

Caleb Postuma

Ram Reddy

Nina Savani

Abigail Strand

Kaia Thorson

Madisen Washington

Andrew Wu

Heidi Xu

### **SALUTATORIAN**

Zoe Weber

### **SENIOR CLASS ADVISORS**

Mr. Greg Schreur

Mr. Craig Travis

## Honors & Recognitions

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### **SEAL OF BILITERACY RECIPIENTS**

Emily Aguilar-Delgado

Kelly Barradas-Lima

Tayden Beene

Nataly Cabrera

Jack de Graaf

Johanne Djouguem Tcheundem

Harriet Engbers

Jovany Hernandez

Sindi Jeronimo Lucas

Ediberto Jeronimo-Matias

Sophia LeRoy

Megan Lux-Hernandez

Briseyda Mata Quintana

Gisselle Mata-Gavina

Ram Reddy

Eliot Redwine

Esau Rios Sanchez

Mae Rydingsward

Isabella Sampedro

Nina Savani

Elizabeth Stambaugh

Erick Tenorio-Bedolla

Kaia Thorson

Thy Tyler

Viridiana Valdez-Carmona

Abraham Vazquez

Brittney Velasquez

Gabriel Vessey

Madisen Washington

Zoe Weber

# Commencement Ceremony

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## **PROCESSIONAL MARCH**

“Pomp and Circumstance” by Edward Elgar, performed by City High Middle School Orchestra

## **NATIONAL ANTHEM**

Colors presented by Union High School JROTC Color Guard

“Star Spangled Banner” performed by Jeweltones

## **WELCOME**

Mrs. Charlie VanderVliet

## **SUPERINTENDENT’S REMARKS**

Dr. Leadriane Roby

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REMARKS**

Mr. Matthew Beresford

## **PRINCIPAL’S REMARKS**

Mrs. Charlie VanderVliet

## **JEWELTONES VOCAL PERFORMANCE**

“Landslide” arranged by Maryanne Muglia

*Senior Soloists: Tayden Beene, Eleanor Broberg, Miriam Dykstra, Aurora Kunze-Fox, Dani Sadowski, Kaia Thorson, Zoe Weber, Anna Wetzel*

## **VALEDICTORIAN’S REMARKS**

Mr. Alexander Byrnes

## **CITY HIGH MIDDLE FACULTY MEMBER’S REMARKS**

Mr. Jesse Antuma

## **PRESENTATION OF DIPLOMAS**

Mr. Trevor Brace, Ms. Erin Emperor, Mr. Greg Schreur

## **CELEBRATION OF THE CLASS OF 2025**

Grand Rapids Board of Education Trustee

## **RECESSIONAL**

“Where’d All the Time Go?” by Dr. Dog

CONGRATULATIONS!

# CLASS OF 2025!

Emily Aguilar-Delgado

Kelly Barradas-Lima

Tayden Beene

Charlotte Beresford

Eleanor Broberg

Maize Brower

Jayda Burton

Jayden Burton

Alexander Byrnes

Nataly Cabrera

Evelyn Callahan

Fabiola Cifuentes Diaz

Sophia Cioffi-Epp

Madeline Crim

Jack de Graaf

Nola de Graaf

Johanne Djouguem Tchuendem

Calvin Donahue

Nigel Doyle

Miriam Dykstra

Isabella Ebright

Asa Edwards

Harriet Engbers

Leander Galindez

Ruben Genzink

Justice Gleason

Colin Goska

Allison Groen

Nicholas Hankins

Reese Hansen

Evangeline Harris

Rayshawn Heard

Jovany Hernandez

Amado Huner

Izabelle Iuga

Emma Jackson

Lizbeth Jaimes-Albiter

Hawa Jama

Sindi Jeronimo Lucas

Ediberto Jeronimo-Matias

Jaylin Johnson

Sebastion Johnson

CONGRATULATIONS!

# CLASS OF 2025!

Charlie Jones

Elijah Jones

Kamari Jones

Torrence Kuhn

Aurora Kunze-Fox

Ellouise Lambertson

Dominik Laninga

Charles Laughlin

Linh Le

Sophia LeRoy

Alexander Leverett

Lia Lin

Megan Lux-Hernandez

Lucia Maher

Briseyda Mata Quintana

Gisselle Mata-Gavina

Miklet Mesay

Elijah Meyer

Anala Millbrooks

Bindi-Faye Mittendorf

Dakota Morin

Charlotte Moxon

Laetitia Nolasco

Rueben Oeverman

Samuel Ostrow

Andrew Parris

Taniya Patel

Audrey Pecor

Selena Perez

Sophia Perez

Dennis Perez-Garcia

Caleb Postuma

Kylie Przybylski

Griffin Rau

Ram Reddy

Eliot Redwine

Esau Rios Sanchez

Mae Rydingsward

Danica Sadowski

Isabella Sampedro

Dylan Sanborn

Nina Savani

CONGRATULATIONS!

# CLASS OF 2025!

Imara Skyers

Kayden Sonefeld

Elizabeth Stambaugh

Max Stefanski

Noah Stiltner

Abigail Strand

Tyree Tatum

Erick Tenorio-Bedolla

Kaia Thorson

Thy Tyler

Viridiana Valdez-Carmona

Olivia Varney

Abigail Vasquez

Abraham Vazquez

Brittney Velasquez

Gabriel Vessey

Madisen Washington

Zoe Weber

Anna Wetzel

Amarah Williams

Michael Williams

Delorean Willis

Julian Wilson

Andrew Wu

Heidi Xu

Alexander Yohannes

Maria Zarbeck

Madelyn Ziuraitis

Our City High Middle School graduates will serve as proud ambassadors of Grand Rapids Public Schools as they embark on their next chapters. They will make their mark in the workforce, in military service, and at several distinguished universities across the country. Their hard work, perseverance, and commitment to excellence have prepared them to thrive in a wide variety of fields and endeavors. We are incredibly proud of all they have accomplished and look forward to seeing the positive impact they will make in the world. We send them off with our heartfelt congratulations and best wishes for continued success.

# CITY HIGH MIDDLE SCHOOL

## Administration

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Charlie VanderVliet, Ed.S.	Principal
Christie Modzeleski, M.Ed.	Assistant Principal
Meghan Jackson, M.A.	Assistant Principal
Jesse Antuma, M.A., M.S.	IB Coordinator

## Instructional Staff

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Heather Alexander-Leduc, B.A.	English & Science Teacher
April Anderson, M.A.	World Language Teacher
Dawn Austin-McCumber, M.A.	Technology Teacher
Philip Beckwith, B.A.	World Language Teacher
Michael Boosamra, M.A.	Center for Economicology Teacher
Damon Brown, M.A.	Math Teacher
Barry Bryant, M.A.	Counselor
Maia Byrnes, M.A.	World Language Teacher
Kara Degenhardt, M.A.	Choir Teacher
Josiah Dominiak, B.A.	English Teacher
Dan Droski, M.A.	7th/8 <sup>th</sup> Grade PE Teacher
Erin Emperor, B.A.	English Teacher
Kendal Exelby, B.F.A.	Visual Arts & Digital Media Teacher
Aaron Fillenworth, M.A.	Math Teacher
Lorrie Graff, Ed.S.	Math Teacher

## Instructional Staff

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Cloe Hadley, B.A.	MYP Art Teacher
Gerrit Immink, M.A.	Counselor
Bekah Jones, B.A.	Social Studies Teacher
Patricia Mapes, M.A.	English Teacher
Esteban Martinez, M.A.	World Language Teacher
Chad Miller, M.A.	Social Studies Teacher
Erin Mitus, M.A.	Math Teacher
Nicole Muzio, M.A.	Science Teacher
Breann O'Shea, B.A.	Social Studies Teacher
Laura Patten Sanchez, M.A.	World Language Teacher
Kelly Pavlovic, B.A.	English & World Language Teacher
Heather Phillips, B.A.	Center for Economicology Teacher
Danielle Ralston, M.A.	Counselor
Kurt Rizley, M.A.	Science Teacher
Laura Ross, M.A.	English/Social Studies Teacher
Greg Schreur, M.A.	English Teacher
Jennifer Snyder, B.S.	Science Teacher
Christy Steketee, M.A.	World Language Teacher
Craig Travis, M.Ed.	Social Studies Teacher
Loc Tu, B.A., B.S.	Science Teacher
Kathleen Vande Gevel, M.A.	English Teacher
John Vanden Heuvel, B.A.	Social Studies Teacher
Mark VanGoor, B.A.	Social Studies Teacher
Anita Vecziedins, M.A.	Math Teacher

## Instructional Staff

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Katherine Vermeer, B.A.	Band Teacher
Jessica Vogl-Sawicki, B.S.	Science Teacher
Maxwell Warren, B.S.	Science Teacher
Michael Weller, M.Div.	Math Teacher
Meagan Whittle, M.Ed.	Visual Arts Teacher
Joe Wierda, M.A.	Social Studies Teacher
Kelly Williams, M.Ed.	Health & PE Teacher
Katherine Wolfe, B.A.	Social Studies Teacher
Patricia Wunder, M.M.	Orchestra Director/DP Music Teacher

## Support Staff

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Shane Adrianse, B.A.	Security Officer
Alesia Albin	Head Secretary
Trevor Brace, M.A.	Youth Advocate Specialist
Betty Budzinski	Food & Nutrition Services
Matthew Budzinski	Food & Nutrition Services
Landy Castillo	Attendance/Second Secretary
Paul Gibson	Custodial Sector Leader
Jean Goree	Food & Nutrition Production Manager
Reka Hoving, B.A.	Media Center Paraprofessional
Anthony Kirvan, M.S.W.	Mental Health Clinician
Jennifer Lundgren, B.S.N., R.N.	Nurse
Gina Maskal	Attendance Secretary
Anthony McKay, B.A.	Registrar
Rachel Palma	Food & Nutrition Services
Joslyn Palmer	Security Officer
Alma Silva	Food & Nutrition Services
Molly Vincent, M.A.	Security Sergeant
Karla Vujinovic, B.S.	Health Aide
Christopher Wood, B.S.	Security Officer

# Grand Rapids Learning Center

## Administration & Staff

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Rodney Brown, M.Ed.	Principal
Ricky Belton, B.A.	Transition Specialist
Linda Buford, B.A.	Support Teacher
Maria Certa	Head Secretary   Registrar
Ashley Covington, M.A.	Counselor
Terence Gaule, M.Ed.	Teacher
Yvette Orr	Social Worker
Kim Price, M.A.	Special Ed Teacher
Renee Speed, B.A.	Teacher

# Southeast Career Pathways

## Administration & Staff

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Troy Wilbon, M.Ed.	Principal
Wilford Aponte, B.A.	Spanish Teacher
Nicole Beukema, M.Ed.	History Teacher
Lisa Cook, M.S.	Head Counselor
Jeff Czyzyk, M.Ed.	Math Teacher
Bonnie Engebretsen, M.Ed.	English Teacher
Nicole Gonzales	Head Secretary
Donna McIntosh, B.A.	Instructional Parapro
Kim Price, M.A.	Resource Teacher
Kristen Strojny, B.A.	English Teacher

# GRAND RAPIDS BOARD OF EDUCATION

2025 Officers & Trustees

---

**Kymberlie Davis**

President

**Aarie Wade**

Vice President

**José Rodriguez**

Secretary

**Kimberley Williams**

Treasurer

**Arick Davis**

Trustee

**Amber Kilpatrick**

Trustee

**Sara Melton**

Trustee

**Eleanor Moreno**

Trustee

**Richard Williamson**

Trustee

Our Mission: To ensure that all scholars are educated,  
self-directed and productive members of society.

# GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## District Leadership

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### **Dr. Leadriane Roby, Superintendent of Schools**

#### **Mel Atkins, II**

Executive Director of Community & Student Affairs

#### **Dr. Mayda Bahamonde-Gunnell**

Executive Director of PK-12 Instructional Leadership (Southwest Quadrant)

#### **Matthew Beresford**

Executive Director of PK-12 Instructional Leadership (Northeast Quadrant)

#### **Maleika Brown**

Ombudsperson

#### **Bridget Cheney**

Executive Director of PK-12 Instructional Leadership (Southeast Quadrant)

#### **Thomas Cottle**

Interim General Counsel

#### **Michelle Dexter**

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources

#### **Kurt Johnson**

Executive Director of Athletics & Dual Enrollment

#### **Larry Johnson**

Chief of Staff and Executive Director of Public Safety & School Security

#### **Rhonda Kribs**

Chief Financial Officer

#### **Dr. Brandy Lovelady Mitchell**

Deputy Superintendent of Preschool-12 Learning & Leadership

#### **Jamie Masco**

Executive Director of Professional Learning & Development

#### **Chad Nielsen**

Interim Executive Director of PK-12 Instructional Leadership (Northwest Quadrant)

#### **Erin Purdy**

Interim Executive Director of Special Education

#### **Alex Smart**

Executive Director of Facilities & Operations

#### **Luke Stier**

Director of Communications & Community Liaison

# CITY HIGH MIDDLE SCHOOL

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# THANK YOU

We would like to extend our gratitude to the Management Information Systems, Facilities and Operations, Public Safety & School Security, and Communications teams for their invaluable contributions in making this graduation ceremony a success. Their hard work and dedication behind the scenes ensured this special day was memorable for all.

## DISCLAIMER REGARDING SCHOLAR MESSAGES AT GRADUATION

The Board of Education, administration, or any school employee has not directed nor endorsed any prayer or religious message of any kind. The student graduation speech/message is given by a student volunteer without review or influence by the Board of Education, by the administration, or by any school employee or school official. The Board of Education, the administration, or school employees exercised no control over who drafted the message or content of the message, or the selection of the student volunteer. The decision as to the content of the speech/message rests solely with the selected student speaker.

# CITY HIGH MIDDLE SCHOOL SENIOR SPOTLIGHT VIDEO



## COMMENCEMENT PHOTOGRAPHS

Your graduate is being  
professionally photographed by  
GradPix.

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photographs at: [GRPSGrad.com](https://GRPSGrad.com).



**Don't wait, enroll now! If you have younger children still in school, now's the time to enroll for the 2025-26 school year. Visit [enroll.grps.org](https://enroll.grps.org) today.**