

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

INNOVATION CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

GRPS 
INNOVATION
CENTRAL HIGH
SCHOOL



Tuesday, May 20, 2025 at 7:00 pm
Houseman Field | Grand Rapids, MI

GRPS 
my choice®
Grand Rapids Public Schools

Looking for translated versions of this program?
Visit grps.org or scan the QR code below!

¿Busca una versión traducida de este programa?
Visite grps.org o escanee el código QR abajo.

Murashaka kubona iyi porogaramu yasobanuwe mu rundi rurimi?
Masure grps.org cyangwa muskanishe ikimenyetso QR hasi hano.

Unatafuta tafsiri ya programu hii?
Tembelea grps.org au scan QR code hapa chini.



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

Honors & Recognitions

VALEDICTORIAN

Jennifer Perez-Vasquez

SALUTATORIAN

Eric Tomas-Miranda

TOP TEN SENIORS

Jennifer Perez-Vasquez

Eric Tomas-Miranda

Priscilla Loarca Lopez

Ashley Loyo-Perez

Barrett Vernon

Leslie Tapia Diaz

Anthony Gaston, Jr.

Christopher Karns

Anaelise Vance

Linda Vandenberg

SEAL OF BILITERACY RECIPIENTS

Amy Huinil-Lopez (Spanish)

Briana Velasquez-Velasquez (Spanish)

Cristian Ramos (Spanish)

Imanishimwe Mahoro Judith (Kinyarwanda)

Isabele Velasquez-Aguilar (Spanish)

Jennifer Perez-Vasquez (Spanish)

SENIOR CLASS ADVISOR

Mrs. Tori Berg

Commencement Ceremony

PROCESSIONAL MARCH

“Pomp and Circumstance” by Edward Elgar, performed by the Grand Rapids Montessori Band

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Colors presented by Innovation Central JROTC Color Guard

“Star Spangled Banner” performed by Grand Rapids Montessori Choir

WELCOME

Ms. Alethia Bettinghouse, Innovation Central High School Class President

SUPERINTENDENT REMARKS

Dr. Leadriane Roby

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REMARKS

Mr. Matthew Beresford

PRINCIPALS REMARKS

Mrs. Kerri Reed, Grand Rapids Montessori

Mr. Derrick Martin, Innovation Central High School

VALEDICTORIANS REMARKS

Ms. Mackenzie Leggett, Grand Rapids Montessori

Ms. Jennifer Perez-Vasquez, Innovation Central High School

PRESENTATION OF DIPLOMAS

Ms. Heather Alward, Grand Rapids Montessori

Ms. Jennifer Bell and Ms. Leigh Ann McCready, Innovation Central

CELEBRATION OF THE CLASS OF 2025

Grand Rapids Board of Education Trustee

RECESSIONAL

Grand Rapids Montessori Band

CONGRATULATIONS!

CLASS OF 2025!

Mohamed Abdi (ADC)	GRCC
Rodrigo Alfonso (ADC)	GRCC M-Tec
Samira Beal-Whitaker (ABLE)	Workforce
Andres Benito-Montejo (ADC)	GRCC
Alethia Bettinghouse (ASTEM)	GRCC
Markel Birge (ASTEM)	GRCC
My'Shon Brewster (HBATLSJ)	GRCC
Demario Brown (ASTEM)	GRCC
Brianna Bultman (ADC)	Ferris State University
William Burrows, III (ADC)	Ferris State University
Corvin Buswa (ABLE)	GRCC
R'rianna Cain (ABLE)	GRCC M-Tec
Daisy Calderon Rodas (ABLE)	Workforce
Aidan Castro-Brown (ASTEM)	Workforce
Briseida Chanax (ASTEM)	GRCC
Ashley Cifuentes (ABLE)	Davenport University
Kenett Cruz (ABLE)	Electrical Apprenticeship
Antwan DeLaRosa-Secundino	GRCC
Frainy Deleon (ABLE)	GRCC M-Tec
Brandon Duncan (ABLE)	Workforce
Imanol Escobar (ADC)	GRCC M-Tec

CONGRATULATIONS!

CLASS OF 2025!

Francisca Esteban-Tercero (AHST)	GRCC
Jordan Evans (ABLE)	MCTI
Cortez Ewing (AHST)	GRCC M-Tec
Kristy Fain (ABLE)	Workforce
Abby Gallegos-Solis (AHST)	GRCC
David Gasca-Zabala (ASTEM)	GRCC
Anthony Gaston, Jr. (ASTEM)	Western Michigan University
Christian Gavina (ADC)	GRCC M-Tec
Johnny Gonzalez-Deleon (AHST)	Ferris State University
Rudy Gramajo-Hernandez (ADC)	GRCC M-Tec
Caiden Herman (ABLE)	Alma College
Aaron Hinkle Robinson (ASTEM)	Western Michigan University
Nasharah Hooks (AHST)	GRCC
Amy Huinil-Lopez (ABLE)	GRCC
Miranda Hurtado Vilchis (ABLE)	Ferris State University
Elias Jimenez-Francisco	GRCC
Shechinah Jordan (ADC)	GRCC
Imanishimwe Mahoro Judith (AHST)	GRCC
Christopher Karns (ADC)	Ferris State University
Malik Libbett (ABLE)	Workforce
Priscilla Loarca Lopez (ABLE)	Ferris State University

CONGRATULATIONS!

CLASS OF 2025!

Kevin Lopez (AHST)	GRCC
Dennis Lopez Ramirez (AHST)	GRCC
Roberto Lopez-Baltierrez (ADC)	Aquinas College
Rogelio Lopez-Baltierrez (ABLE)	GRCC
Jackson Lopez-Vasquez	GRCC
Malcolm Lott (ABLE)	Empower U
Ashley Loyo-Perez (AHST)	GRCC
Christopher Lyman (ABLE)	GRCC
DaJontah Mabry (ABLE)	Detroit Community Christian College
Markey Manning (ABLE)	Workforce
German Mares (ADC)	GRCC M-Tec
Brian Martin Vincente (ASTEM)	Workforce
Josalyn Massaway (AHST)	Ferris State University
Nastasia McIntosh (ADC)	Ferris State University
Bryan Medina (ADC)	Firefighter Academy
Steven Medina (ADC)	Workforce
Arrionna Moore (ADC)	Michigan State University
Deonte Noble, Jr. (ADC)	GRCC M-Tec
Jennifer Perez-Vasquez (ABLE)	Calvin University
Jehlani Porter (ABLE)	Western Michigan University
Tanayah Porter (ABLE)	Workforce

CONGRATULATIONS!

CLASS OF 2025!

Angel Puentevargas (ABLE)	Western Michigan University
Parion Ramirez (AHST)	GRCC
Santiago Ramirez Torres, Jr. (ADC)	Workforce
Cristian Ramos (ADC)	Aquinas College
Benjamin Reyes-Rodriguez	GRCC
Gilberto Rodriguez Diaz (ADC)	MCTI
Yoelvis Rodriguez-Vargas (ASTEM)	Western Michigan University
Francisco Roman-Ramirez (ABLE)	GRCC
Angel Rosario-Lopez (ADC)	GRCC
Itzel Ruiz-Orellana (ASTEM)	Firefighter
Neveah Scott (ABLE)	Empire Beauty School
Israel Sepulveda-Garcia (ADC)	Workforce
Leslie Tapia-Diaz (ABLE)	Aquinas College
Anthony Toledo-Delao (ADC)	Empower U
Eric Tomas-Miranda (ABLE)	Grand Valley State University
Kristin Tyms (ASTEM)	Workforce
Ashley Valdez-Hernandez (AHST)	GRCC
Vanessa Valdez-Centeno (ADC)	GRCC M-Tec
Anaelise Vance (ASTEM)	Western Michigan University
Linda Vandenberg (ABLE)	GRCC
Angel Vazquez Velasquez (ADC)	Army

CONGRATULATIONS!

CLASS OF 2025!

Isabela Velasquez Aguilar (AHST)	GRCC
Briana Velasquez-Velasquez (ABLE)	GRCC
Barrett Vernon (HBATLSJ)	University of Michigan
Trenten Walters (ADC)	GRCC
Tatyanah Wilson (AHST)	GRCC

ACADEMY ABBREVIATION KEY:

ABLE: Academy of Business, Leadership & Entrepreneurship

ADC: Academy of Design & Construction

AHST: Academy of Health Science & Technology

HBATLSJ: Hattie Beverly Academy of Teaching, Learning & Social Justice

ASTEM: Academy of Science, Technology, Engineering & Math

INNOVATION CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

Administration

Derrick P. Martin, M.Ed.

Principal

Harold Wiggins, M.Ed.

Assistant Principal

Nataša Karić, M.Ed.

Dean of Students

Instructional & Support Staff

Michelle Alber, M.Ed.

ABLE Lead Teacher

Dagoberto Alvarado

Paraprofessional

Jenn Bell

Head Secretary

Mahala Berg, B.A.

Registrar

Tori Berg, M.N.S.

Post Graduate Success Coordinator

Jeremy Bissett, M.Ed.

Counselor

Stephen Brennan, B.A.

Spanish Teacher

Carol Brookens, M.Ed.

English Teacher

Kimberly Buckner, M.A.

Special Ed Teacher

Shawn G. Buggs, B.A.

Youth Advocate

Stephanie Cusin, B.A.

Math Teacher

Wendy Dean, M.Ed.

Resource Teacher

Jessica DeJong, M.A.

Science Teacher

Dan Donovan, M.A.

Math Teacher

Sandra Ferrell, B.S.

EL Paraprofessional

Instructional & Support Staff

Deannia Friend, B.A.	Paraprofessional
Elisabeth Giem, M.A.	ASTEM Lead Teacher
Melissa Gorman, M.A.	Resource Teacher
James Gunner-Zoerman, B.A.	Math Teacher
Taylor Harmon, B.S.	Safety Officer
Willa Hill, M.A.	Youth Advocate
Carolyn Hintz, M.A.	Art Teacher
Kathy Hodder, M.S.	AHST Lead Teacher
Audrey Jennings, M.A.	English Teacher
LTC Pat. L. Kerbuski, Jr., M.B.A.	JROTC Instructor
Michael B. Larson, B.S.	Science Teacher
Andrew Marcks, B.S.	Safety Officer
Jordan Mayberry, M.A.	PE Teacher
Leigh Ann McCready, M.A.	English Teacher
Brendella McLaurine	Childcare Worker
Mikaela Mitchner, B.B.A.-Law	Attendance Secretary
Christopher Morgan, M.Ed.	Construction Teacher
Joanna Mueller, M.A.	Transition Teacher
Sultan Z. Muhammad, M.S.	College Advisor
Daniel Ocampo, B.A.	Science Teacher
Lisa Orban-Cowley, M.Ed.	HBATLSJ Lead Teacher
Roger Patrick, M.A.	Math Teacher
Kristin Philips, Ed.S.	School Psychologist

Instructional & Support Staff

Jodi Pyper, B.S.N., R.N.	School Nurse
Amy Rambadt, B.A.	English Teacher
Joseph Reed, M.F.A.	ADC Lead Teacher
Harry Richards, B.A.	Safety Officer
Mandy Robbins, M.Ed.	Head Counselor
Gerrienne Schuler, M.A.	English Teacher
Alia Shenk, B.A.	English Teacher
Sam Smith, B.S.	Social Studies Teacher
Samuel Takem-Baiyee, M.Phil.	Social Studies Teacher
Jack Vander Sluis, B.A.	Social Studies Teacher
Wesley Washington, M.A.LPC.	Mental Health Clinician
Billy Wheeler-Smith, B.A.	Safety Officer
Anjalon Wimbush, M.S.W.	Social Worker
Susan Witte, M.L.I.S.	Literacy Paraprofessional
Sgt. Daniel J. Yentsch, A.S.	JROTC Instructor

Grand Rapids Learning Center

Administration & Staff

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

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

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



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.

INNOVATION CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR SPOTLIGHT VIDEO



COMMENCEMENT PHOTOGRAPHS

Your graduate is being
professionally photographed by
GradPix.

You can register and find your
photographs at: 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 today.