

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY
**GRAND RAPIDS
MONTESSORI**

Grand  Rapids
Montessori
Grand Rapids Public Schools

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

GRPS 
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Grand Rapids Public Schools

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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

Honors & Recognitions

VALEDICTORIAN

Mackenzie Leggett

SALUTATORIAN

Sarah Chanter

ACADEMIC TOP FIVE

Mackenzie Leggett

Sarah Chanter

Linde Clark

Devin Holmes

Lillian Glazier

NATIONAL HONORS SOCIETY

Sarah Chanter

Lillian Glazier

Vivian Idziak

SENIOR CLASS ADVISOR

Mz. Kate Krueger

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!

Wilonja Abasi

Sarah Chanter

Linde Clark

Nola DeGroft

Scott Dobbins, III

Christian Friend

Lillian Glazier

Sebastian Grooters

Carter Hayes

Samaria Hester

Devin Holmes

Vivian Idziak

Kale Jacob

Malik Kerr

Scarlet Lee

Mackenzie Leggett

Liam McDermid

Sean Pechumer-Kozak

Aiyahna Polk-Lewis

Kasiel Robinson

Major Vance

Nikolas VanWalsum

Dakota Venroy

Zaccheus Wilder

Emily Zavala

GRCC and GVSU

Calvin University

Grand Rapids Community College

Michigan State University

Workforce

Grand Rapids Community College

Michigan State University

Grand Rapids Community College

Grand Valley State University

Grand Rapids Community College

Grand Valley State University

Grand Rapids Community College

Grand Rapids Community College

Gap Year

Western Michigan University

Ferris State University

Western Michigan University

GRCC and GVSU

Grand Rapids Community College

Grand Rapids Community College

Aquinas College

Grand Rapids Community College

Grand Rapids Community College

Grand Rapids Community College

Grand Rapids Community College

GRAND RAPIDS MONTESSORI

Administration

Kerri Reed, M.A.

Principal

Christy Price, M.Ed.

Assistant Principal

Theron Brown, B.A.

Dean of Students

Instructional & Support Staff

Heather Alward, M.Ed.

Special Education Teacher

Brent Besemer, B.S.

Science Teacher

Danielle deJonge, M.Ed.

English Teacher

Phil Garber, M.Ed.

Physical Education Teacher

Beth Gazella Falknor, M.A.

Choir Teacher

Kathryn Krueger, M.S.

Social Studies Teacher

Antonio McDaniel

Youth Advocate

Jose Molero, M.Ed.

Spanish Teacher

Elizabeth Ostrowski, M.Ed.

Math Teacher

Matthew Rodriguez, B.A.

Social Studies Teacher

Ellen Runkel-Ford, B.A.

Art Teacher

Michelle Smith

Paraprofessional

Selin Turan, B.A.

Science Teacher

Juanita Tyler, A.A.

Head Secretary

Nathan Weber, M.A.

Band Teacher

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

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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)

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Bridget Cheney

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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.

GRAND RAPIDS MONTESSORI SENIOR SPOTLIGHT VIDEO



COMMENCEMENT PHOTOGRAPHS

Your graduate is being
professionally photographed by
GradPix.

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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.