

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC MUSEUM HIGH SCHOOL



PUBLIC
MUSEUM
SCHOOL

Wednesday, May 21, 2025 at 7:00 pm
Houseman Field | Grand Rapids, MI



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Masure grps.org cyangwa muskanishe ikimenyetso QR hasi hano.

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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

VALEDICTORIANS

Kathleen Ruel

Thalia Jackson

SALUTATORIAN

Evelinn Duncan

Sabella Lema

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

Jersey Bueche Huron

Evelinn Duncan

Juan Rodriguez

Kate Ruel

Erin Fife

SEAL OF BILITERACY RECIPIENT

Joana Calderon Diaz

SENIOR CLASS ADVISOR

Kris Beeckman

Commencement Ceremony

PROCESSIONAL MARCH

“Pomp and Circumstance” by Edward Elgar

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Colors presented by Ottawa Hills High School JROTC Color Guard

“Star Spangled Banner” performed by Museum High School Advanced Choir

WELCOME

Ms. Adeline Mukashema

SUPERINTENDENT’S REMARKS

Dr. Leadriane Roby

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REMARKS

Mr. Matthew Beresford

PRINCIPAL’S REMARKS

Dr. Christopher Hanks

VALEDICTORIAN’S REMARKS

Ms. Kate Ruel

POET LAUREATES’ REMARKS

Ms. Evelinn Duncan and Ms. Mariangel Cano-Mora

MUSEUM HIGH SCHOOL FACULTY MEMBER’S REMARKS

Ms. Holly Postma, English Teacher

PRESENTATION OF DIPLOMAS

Mr. Tom Peterson, Social Studies Teacher

CELEBRATION OF THE CLASS OF 2025

Grand Rapids Board of Education Trustee

RECESSIONAL

“All the Lights” by Kanye; “All the Stars” by Kendrick Lamar; “Wild Ones” by Flo Rida & Sia

CONGRATULATIONS!

CLASS OF 2025!

Rocco Barron

John Battle

Alexander Beane

Noelle Benson-Chapton

Samuel Bott

Jersey Bueche Huron

Joana Calderon Diaz

Stacey Calderon-Garcia

Mariangel Cano-Mora

Micah Collazo

Josiah DeBlaay

Austin DeKlein

Evelinn Duncan

Malia Elzinga

Loki Ewigleben

Dani Ferratt

Erin Fife

Briydon Frain

Grace French

Nathaniel Gleisner

Ashelia Graham

Quinn Guikema

Timothy Haithcox

Keyshawn Harris

Zander Herring

Mantrail Hodges

Thalia Jackson

Nyasia Jefferson-Davis

Patrick Jones

Ja'Ron La'Grone

Sabella Lema

Valentino Lupis

Josue Marcelino

Caiden Meade

Alivia Milanowski

El-Amin Muhammad

Adeline Mukashema

Aristotle Mulvihill

Heaven Murphy-Shingola

Judah Nellis

Juan Rodriguez

Thalia Rodriguez

CONGRATULATIONS!

CLASS OF 2025!

Charles Roper

Shelby Rucker

Kathleen Ruel

Jonas Smith

Jonah Spoelma

Tinarious Tate

Arwen Tichenor

Isaiah Tillman

Gustavo Tonoc-Hernandez

Julian Trivelpiece

Vincent Ward

Alayna Webber

Jai Weinrich

Niklas Williams

Our Grand Rapids Public Museum High School graduates will serve as ambassadors for Grand Rapids Public Schools in various avenues, including the workforce, military service, and at the following institutions of higher education: Davenport University, DePaul University, Douglas J. Aveda Institute, Grand Rapids Community College, Grand Valley State University, Michigan State University, Oakland University, University of Michigan and Western Michigan University.

MUSEUM HIGH SCHOOL STAFF

Administration

Christopher Hanks, Ph.D.

Principal

Sam Mickens, Sr., B.A.

Dean of Students

Instructional & Support Staff

Lisa Alfriend, M.A.

Mental Health Clinician

Candice Anderson, M.A.

English Teacher

Kristine Beeckman, M.A.

Head Counselor

Sandy Bromley, B.A.

Head Secretary

Teagan Burns, B.A.

Art Teacher

Laura Chaffin, M.A.

Math Teacher

Annika DeGraaf, B.A.

Math Teacher

Brett Dzierzyc, B.S.

Data Specialist

Ben Hoff, B.A.

Science Teacher

Pamela Jackson

Nutrition Services

Ray Jones, B.A.

Youth Advocate

Ashley Joyce, R.N., B.S.N.

School Nurse

Soonja Koole, M.A.

English Teacher

Benjamin Kruid, M.Ed.

Social Studies Teacher

Nate Langel, M.A.

Science Teacher

Alex Lawton, B.A.

CAD Teacher

Amy Liberato Jasinski, M.Ed.

Spanish Teacher

Instructional & Support Staff

Tom Peterson, B.A.	Social Studies Teacher
Dave Petroelje, B.S.	Long-Term Substitute Teacher
Marisa Plouhar, B.A.	Music Teacher
Holly Postma, B.A.	English Teacher
Ang Rock	Nutrition Services
Sophia Scarnecchia	PE/Health Teacher
Marcus Taylor	Custodian
Katie Torkelson-Regan, B.S.	Science Teacher
Augustine Wasinski, B.A.	Special Education Teacher
Anjalon Wimbush, M.A.	Social Worker
Donald Zomer, M.A.	History 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 Cerda	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

Commencement Ceremony

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

Original Mastodons!



“Original Mastodons” attended Grand Rapids Public Museum School from grades 6 - 12!

Rocco Barron

John Battle

Joana Calderon Diaz

Stacey Calderon-Garcia

Mariangel Cano-Mora

Micah Collazo

Josiah DeBlaay

Evelinn Duncan

Loki Ewigleben

Briydon Frain

Grace French

Mantrail Hodges

Patrick Jones

Aristotle Mulvihill

Heaven Murphy-Shingola

Juan Rodriguez

Shelby Rucker

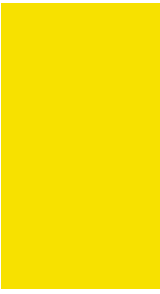
Kate Ruel

Jonah Spoelma

Arwen Tichenor

Isaiah Tillman

Gustavo Tonoc-Hernandez



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 PUBLIC MUSEUM 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.**