

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

# OTTAWA HILLS HIGH SCHOOL



Wednesday, May 21, 2025 at 5:00 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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# Honors & Recognitions

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## **VALEDICTORIAN**

Charles Curtis

## **SALUTATORIAN**

Takara San Miguel

## **ACADEMIC TOP TEN**

Charles Curtis

Takara San Miguel

Jenifer Lopez

Jayden Webb

Mathew Pierce

Anthony Cox

Katie Zarate Sosa

Adam Buggs

Abdulkadir Abdulkadir

Christopher Poindexter

## **SENIOR CLASS ADVISOR**

Andrew Clausen

# Commencement Ceremony

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## **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 the Ottawa Hills High School Band & Choir

## **WELCOME**

Mr. Logan Rockwell

## **SUPERINTENDENT REMARKS**

Dr. Leadriane Roby

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REMARKS**

Mrs. Bridget Cheney

## **MUSICAL PERFORMANCE**

“Lean on Me” by Bill Withers, performed by the Ottawa Hills High School Band & Choir

## **PRINCIPAL REMARKS**

Dr. Timothy Mabin

## **SALUTATORIAN REMARKS**

Miss Takara San Miguel

## **VALEDICTORIAN REMARKS**

Mr. Charles Bishop Curtis

## **OTTAWA HILLS FACULTY MEMBER REMARKS**

Mrs. Vanessa Allen

## **PRESENTATION OF DIPLOMAS**

Mr. Andrew Clausen and Ms. Sophie Kurima

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

Grand Rapids Board of Education Trustee

## **RECESSIONAL**

“No Role Modelz” by J. Cole

CONGRATULATIONS!

# CLASS OF 2025!

Abdulkadir Abdulkadir

Malik Abdullah

Rambert Alex

Shamaree Andrews

Izaiah Anible

Indea Baldwin

Aleecia Borja-Jones

Adam Buggs

Andrew Buggs

Misael Castillo-Hernandez

Danasia Chaney

Cameron Cole

George Cole

Leslie Colorado

Anthony Cox

Charles Curtis

Terry Davis

Francheska Lynn DeVenecia

Jaeden Dentmond

Ziyon Donaldson

Dwayne Droughn

Josiah Dunning

Niaesha Ellison

De'Andre Fortenberry

Daniel Galeana-Antonio

Owen Garrett

Asa Green

Kahari Haywood

DeNalye Hill

Raphael Irumva

Harmoni Jackson

Lola Janousek

Cam'Ron Jones

Jabar Kennebrew

Devontae Knight

Lamarion Lasenby

Michi Likely

Jenifer Lopez

Javar Lowe

Destiny Matthews

CONGRATULATIONS!

# CLASS OF 2025!

Micah McConer

Jurni McIntosh

Gavin Milano

Jimmy Mkyombwe

Ayan Mohamed

Iyanna Morris

Kimora Offray

Emily Palumbo

Mathew Pierce

Christopher Poindexter

Heman Poudyel

Christian Quezada

Teyonna Reynolds

Logan Rockwell

Ta'Lasia Roseburgh

Takara San Miguel

Adan Sanchez-Pasillas

Julie Sheikh

Amonari Slack

Akyla Smith

Brenden Smith

Javari Sowell

Jaquwon Stubbs

Keshaun Tillman

DeMario Trevino

Braiden Villa

Juan Villa

Ja'Nyah Weatherspoon

Jayden Webb

Deacon Welch

Seneca Williams

Adrian Worthington

Katie Zarate Sosa

# OTTAWA HILLS HIGH SCHOOL

## Administration

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Timothy Mabin, Jr., PhD.

Principal

Marquis Buggs, M.Ed.

Assistant Principal

Vanessa Allen, M.Ed.

Assistant Principal

Christine Holland, M.Ed.

Assistant Principal

Chad Randolph, M.I.S.

Dean of Students

Marcus Harris, M.S.A.

Athletic Director

## Instructional & Support Staff

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Valerie Amante, M.F.A.

Media Paraprofessional

Rachael Arroyo

Food Service Manager

Matthew Badger, B.S.

Public Safety Officer

Darnell Badger, M.A.

Public Safety Officer

Cornell Bailey, A.M.L.S.

Librarian/NHS Director

Sean Barnes, M.Ed.

Special Education Teacher

Hannah Barnett, B.A.

EL Interventionist

Abby Bekins, B.A.

Social Studies Teacher

Rebecca Beltran, B.S.

Mathematics Teacher

Peyton Berce, B.M.E.

Band Teacher

Hope Berg

Nutrition Services

Kristen Betts, B.S.W.

Public Safety Officer

Brooke Bevins, B.S.

Science Teacher



## Instructional & Support Staff

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Kelsey Bobeldyk, B.A.	Spanish Teacher/EL Interventionist
Cara Bowen, B.A.	Special Education Teacher
Tara Brown, M.Ed.	English Teacher
Celestina Buentello	Health Aide
Dominique Burt, M.Ed.	Strengths-Based Interventionist
Monique Clanagan, A.B.A.	Attendance Secretary
Andrew Clausen, M.Ed.	Head Counselor
Lelar Clay, A.A.	Childcare Worker
Jennifer Cruz	Lead Cook
Venetta Cunningham	Nutrition Services
Ricardo Deleon	Custodian
Jackie DeRossi	Paraprofessional
Morgan DeVries, B.S.	Social Studies Teacher
Ted Duncan, M.B.A.	Science Teacher
Jon Duncan, M.S.	Social Studies/PE Teacher
Alonzo Earley	Public Safety Officer
Anna Ebbitt, B.A.	Spanish Teacher
Sean Elock	Childcare Worker
Joycelyn Evans, A.A.	Paraprofessional
Caroline Ford, B.A.	Mathematics Teacher
John Freeman, II, B.S.	Chief Community Builder
Faustino Garcia	Public Safety Sergeant
Daniel Garland, M.Ed.	Special Education Teacher

## Instructional & Support Staff

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Cheryl Garner, B.A.	GRCC - Student Navigator
Nicholas Gerstenlauer, B.S.	Mathematics Teacher
Jaunine Hackmon, B.A.	GRCC - Promise Zone Coordinator
Matthew Harrison, M.Phil.	English Teacher
Candice Hawley, B.A.	Science Teacher
Amy Hoogstra, FNP-BC	Nurse Practitioner
Damika Houston, L.P.C.	Mental Health Therapist
Elizabeth Howard, B.S.	Mathematics Teacher
Kisha Humphrie	Patient Registration Specialist
Kendall Jackson, M.S.	Strengths-Based Interventionist
James Jones, A.A.	In-House Specialist
Jeffrey Kinninger, M.Ed.	ROTC Teacher
Cheri Krogman, M.A.	Speech Pathologist
Sophie Kurima, M.Ed.	Counselor
Samuel Lefaive	Head Custodian
Jabria Libbett, B.A.S.	Registrar
Erik Love, B.M.	Choir Teacher/Academy of Music Production
Amena Love, Ed.S.	School Psychologist
Danee Lucas, B.A.	Teacher - EMC Coordinator
Amy Lynn Mabin, M.Ed.	Health Education Teacher
Sherri Martin, M.Ed.	Special Education Teacher
Feliciano Martinez	Nutrition Services

## Instructional & Support Staff

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Hailey Mawhinney, B.A.	English Teacher
Lisa McCoy, B.S.	Childcare Worker
Lillie McGregory, M.A.	Teacher - Academy of Hospitality & Tourism
Aaron Morris, B.S.	ROTC Teacher
Whitley Morse, M.Ed.	Social Studies Teacher
Jessica Nash, M.Ed.	School Renewal Specialist
Cherie Olsen, B.S.N., R.N.	School Nurse
Joseph O'Malley, M.Ed.	Science Teacher
Yvette Orr, LMSW	School Social Worker
Jacob Oyster, M.Ed.	Physical Education Teacher
Enrique Perez, B.A.	EL Interventionist Support
Oscar Plesco, B.S.	Public Safety Officer
Marcellus Putnam	Operational Specialist
Pearl Robinson	Head Secretary
Aedin Seck, B.A.	U of M College Advisor
Dominic Shannon, M.Ed.	School Improvement Facilitator
Jennifer Sharp, B.F.A.	Art Teacher
Stephen Smith, M.Ed.	Art Teacher
Nathan Stout, B.A.	Special Education Teacher
Colleen Waite, M.Ed.	Special Education Teacher Consultant
Justin Walcott, J.D.	English Teacher
Geoffrey Weaver, L.P.C.	Mental Health Therapist
A. Wissner, B.S.	Mathematics Teacher
Mary Wyles, M.S.	Athletic Secretary

# 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.	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

---

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**Aarie Wade**

Vice President

**José Rodriguez**

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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

## KEEP GOING

When things go wrong, as they sometimes will,  
When the road you're trudging seems all up hill,  
When the funds are low and the debts are high,  
And you want to smile, but you have to sigh,  
When care is pressing you down a bit,  
Rest if you must - but don't you quit.

Life is queer with its twists and turns,  
As every one of us sometimes learns,  
And many a failure turns about,  
When he might have won had he stuck it out.  
Don't give up, though the pace seems slow,  
You may succeed with another blow.

Often the goal is nearer than  
It seems to a faint and faltering man.  
Often the struggler has given up  
When he might have captured the victor's cup,  
And he learned too late, when the night slipped down,  
How close was to the golden crown.

Success is failure turned inside out.  
The silver tint of the clouds of doubt.  
And you never can tell how close you are,  
It may be near when it seems afar.  
So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit.  
It's when things seem worst that you mustn't quit.

*~Edgar A. Guest*

## 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.

# OTTAWA HILLS HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR SPOTLIGHT VIDEO



## COMMENCEMENT PHOTOGRAPHS

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