

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY
UNION HIGH SCHOOL



Monday, May 19, 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

Honors & Recognitions

VALEDICTORIAN

Eduardo Gutierrez

SALUTATORIAN

Jaysmin Cifuentes Angelino

ACADEMIC TOP TEN

Eduardo Gutierrez

Jaysmin Cifuentes Angelino

Rima Patel

Derika Moore

Angelina Lopez

Gonzalo Rodriguez

Dilanny Perez

Aaron Gomez

Zoe Jackson

Jessica Andres Vasquez

Yoselin Reyes

SEAL OF BILITERACY RECIPIENTS

Faduma Abdulla

Cristian Castro Jimenez

Jaysmin Cifuentes Angelino

Gabriel Colimapec

Joanna Galvan Garcia

Jose Gonzalez-Orozco

Lizeth Lozano-Mendez

Belinda Mazariegos

Pedro Morales-Leon

Analucia Ortiz-Sanchez

Andres Ponce Juarez

Donaman Romero-Vasquez

Yemerson Velasquez-Lucas

SENIOR CLASS ADVISORS

Tracy Benjamin

Becca Quinn

UNION HIGH SCHOOL

Commencement Ceremony

PROCESSIONAL MARCH

“Pomp and Circumstance” by Edward Elgar

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Colors presented by Union High School JROTC Color Guard

“Star Spangled Banner” performed by Union High School Choir

WELCOME

Mr. Aaron Roussey

SUPERINTENDENT REMARKS

Dr. Leadriane Roby

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REMARKS

Mr. Chad Nielsen

PRINCIPAL REMARKS

Mr. Aaron Roussey

VALEDICTORIAN REMARKS

Mr. Eduardo Gutierrez

PRESENTATION OF DIPLOMAS

Ms. Tracy Benjamin, Counselor

CELEBRATION OF THE CLASS OF 2025

Grand Rapids Board of Education Trustee

RECESSIONAL

“Good Old Days” by Macklemore, featuring Kesha

CONGRATULATIONS!

CLASS OF 2025!

Jamila Abdi

Faduma Abdulla

Jocelyn Aguilar

Ledger Alegria

Dylan Altenburg

Gustavo Alvarado Garcia, Jr.

Hikmatullah Amarkhil

Agusto Andres

Jessica Andres-Vasquez

Itzel Arroyo Flores

Ebonie Asamoah-Boadu

Johan Ayala

Zawadi Ayinkamiye

Mansour Azimi

Sun Baber

Nathaniel Bailey

Fatima Barajas-Alonso

Fatima Bedolla-Ipina

Jaronica Binion

Prime Birori

Cashis Bobo

Xavier Bowman

Brayden Bradbury

Christopher Brown

Da'Vinci Brown

Juelle Brown

Lokk Bumstead

Brookelyn Butler

Isaiah Byers

Cedric Byiringiro

Syiriniti Cain

Fidencio Calderon Martinez

Meldry Calderon Reyes

Lland Calderon-Reyes

Ja'Karius Carter

Khayden Carter

Sara Castaneda-Carrillo

Cristian Castro Jimenez

Elisabeth Centeno

Mykala Charleston

Nyomi Charlton

Pedro Chavez-Lucas

CONGRATULATIONS!

CLASS OF 2025!

Javier Chicas Pacheco

Jaysmin Cifuentes Angelino

Susana Ciprian-Mejia

Ulises Cisneros-Suarez

Zion Claxton

Qa'yshawn Clemons

Malik Cobbins

JuLisa Contreras

Israel Cross

William Curl

Barnay Dadiri

Fhatimah Davis

Imonie Davis

Ja'Sonti Davis

Melfi De Leon Lopez

Elayna Deeb

Carson DeJohn

Adan Delgado Garcia

Amida Didasi

Caleb Downs

Roda Ebenga

Nadiyah Ellison

Derartu Eresso

Rodemiro Escalante-Gutierrez

Marcela Esteban-Francisco

Cecilia Fernandez

Jimena Flores Reyes

Tyler Fry

Joanna Galvan Garcia

Armando Garcia-Martinez

Andy Garcia-Ramirez

Sarai Garza

Nebyat Gebrehiwot

Donavon George

Skylar Giles

Chiya Gilleylen

Aaron Gomez

Alexis Gomez-Mendoza

Brayyan Gonzalez Sanchez

Johan Gonzalez-Cortes

Jose Gonzalez-Orozco

Eduardo Gutierrez

Marisol Gutierrez

Sydnee Hampton

CONGRATULATIONS!

CLASS OF 2025!

Brenda Hernandez Lopez

Alejandro Herrera

Sear Hilton Mota

Rakiya Houston

Janelle Hunter

Xaiver Irons

Shema Irumva

Jesus Ixpata Lopez

Michael Jacinto Mateo

Zion Jackson

Zöe Jackson

Mychaela Janes

McKenna Jones

Lavari Jordan-Stokes

Uwase Kamwanya

Sahil Karimi

Fifi Kayitesi

Tyies Kemp

Coreyon King

Ethyn Lahr

Jaykob Landero

Anthony Logan

Angelina Lopez

Marleni Lopez

Kevin Lopez Tomas

Robin Lopez-Chavez

Carolina Lopez-Lopez

Lizeth Lozano-Mendez

Pascual Lucas Lopez

Ana Lujano

David Luu

Kaniyah Mabry

Armanie Maldonado

Jaleny Malonado-Marroquin

Javier Martinez Suarez, Jr.

Soleil Mashengesho

Yaslyn Matias Socoy

Dorrion Matthews

Maynor Matute Cruz

Belinda Mazariegos

Jeannette Mbabazi

Ruth Mbanguka

CONGRATULATIONS!

CLASS OF 2025!

Deijan McBee

Harmony McKinney

Keyon McKinney

Ivan Mejia

Yaquelin Mejia Lucas

Emervin Mejia Rodriguez

Andrew Menzel

Susana Mesta

Leo Miller

Ka'Nylah Mooney

Derika Moore

Micah Moore

Kymastre Morales

Pedro Morales-Leon

Katherine Moreno Funes

Nadia Mufaume

Nikah Muhammad

Sarah Mukamanzi

Saimon Mwenengoma

Gad Mwiseneza

Abdul Wajid Naemzada

Ty Nagelkerk

Natali Navarro Meza

Jerome Ndayisaba

Rodrigue Ngirikiringo

Daniel Ngororano

Jennifer Nieto-Rodriguez

Alexa Olmos-Lopez

Vidal Ortiz

Analucia Ortiz-Sanchez

Chloe Paasman

Ana Pantoja

Eric Pastor Valdez

Rima Patel

Ka'Nirah Payne

Walter Peevy

Jennifer Pena

Jeremy Pena Bautista

Andres Perez

Dilanny Perez

CONGRATULATIONS!

CLASS OF 2025!

Ja'Koveon Perkins

Imani Pickens

Andres Ponce Juarez

Julian Potts

Eduardo Rafael Perez

Francoise Ramadhan

Jacob Ramirez Baez

Carolina Ramirez Yoc

Xavier Reece-Whitehead

Ana Regalado-Wingate

Yoselin Reyes

Fatima Reyes-Mora

Emerson Reyes-Reyes

Aaliyah Robertson

Josaiah Robertson

Quinten Robinson

Gonzalo Rodriguez

Ja'Don Rodriguez

Jose Rodriguez

Luis Rodriguez

Ivett Rodriguez Mianda

Jesus Rodriguez-Valdivia

Jasmine Rojas Fajardo

Eddy Romero Camacho

Donaman Romero-Vasquez

Krismaily Rosado-Lizardo

Kharlos Ruiz-Swindall

Olivier Rukundo

Emeline Sabato

Liliana Salinas-Guzman

Raul Sanchez

Jabarion Sanders

Bianca Sanders Rodriguez

Jose Santiago Posadas

Gleidy Santizo Lopez

Destiny Scales

Ashlyn Scanlon

Jamond Seals

Uriel Seguraacosta

Darius Sewell

CONGRATULATIONS!

CLASS OF 2025!

Diana Shirzai

Imran Shirzai

Hakeem Shropshire

Jadis Spicer

Shinya Stevenson

Halima Suleiman

Michael Sutton

Dali'k Taylor

Tucker Torres

Deisy Trejo Maldonado

Rachel Tunnison

Hope Tuyisenge

Peace Umurerwa

Alexander Vail-Hernandez

Nyelie Valdez

Justin VanDyke

Leslie Vasquezhiginio

Innocence Vaughn

Kiara Veal

Yessica Vega Salinas

Kayce Velasquez-Lopez

Yemerson Velasquez-Lucas

Wesli Velasquez-Mendez

Hasan Wali

Jaylynn Washington

Dashiyah Waters

Ahriyah Watkins

Aleiyah Weathersby

Michael Weeks

Zanavia Wells

Jalen White

Iyanna Wiese

Keara Williams

Tia Wimberly

Makiyah Woods

Diallo Wright, Jr.

Asha Yusuf

Madison Zamarripa

Michael Zepeda Belloso

CONGRATULATIONS!

CLASS OF 2025!

Our Union 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: Aquinas College, Central Michigan University, Cornerstone University, Davenport University, Douglas J. Aveda Institute, Empire Beauty School, Ferris State University, Georgia Institute of Technology, Georgia State University, Grand Rapids Community College, Grand Valley State University, GRCC M-TEC Center, Herzing University, Kendall College of Art and Design, Kuyper College, Michigan State University, National Guard, Norfolk State University, United States Marine Corps, University of Michigan, Wayne State University and Western Michigan University.

UNION HIGH SCHOOL

Administration

Aaron Roussey, M.A.

Principal

Dana Bachelder, M.A.

Assistant Principal

Jessica Maat, M.A.

Assistant Principal

Gerardo Aguilar, B.A.

Dean of Students

Nate Mayfield, B.A.

Dean of Students

Justin Walker, M.A.

Athletic Director

Instructional & Support Staff

Yessenia Aguillon

Upward Bound

Carmen Amaro

Family Support Specialist

Richard Angstman

Social Studies Teacher

Jessica Atkinson

Food Services

Vicky Atkinson

Food Services

Melinda Aviles

Behavioral Health Clinician

Kristin Babinski

Physical Education Teacher

Lisa Baird

English Teacher

Ernesto Barraza

Math Teacher

Tracy Benjamin

School Counselor

Morgan Bills

KSSN Coordinator

Linda Blakemore

Orchestra Teacher

Joshua Brandsen

Upward Bound

Instructional & Support Staff

Vincent Brewer	Public Safety
Jennifer Burns	Athletic Secretary
Amanda Bursey	Newcomer Teacher
Amber Cain	ESL Interventionist
Megan Carson	SBHC Medical Director
Michala Carter	Behavior Specialist
Kelli Cochran	Newcomer Teacher
Chris Cole	ASD Teacher
Colson Ceglarek	Math Teacher
J. Chilufya	Instructional Parapro
Nicholas Claus	ASD Teacher
Erika Curtiss	ESL Interventionist
Elizabeth DeBoer	English Teacher
James DeVoe	Band Teacher
McKenna DeWolf	Social Studies Teacher
Patrick Dimpsey	Social Studies Teacher
Nehemiah Dix	Student Advocate
Angie Drake	Occupational Therapy Assistant
Peter Dondit	2 nd Shift Teacher
Raymone Dooley	Child Care Worker
Nicole Durso	Science Teacher
Dana Ekic	Health Aide
Jeffrey Ells	Science Teacher

Instructional & Support Staff

Johnathan Faber	ESL Teacher
Brad Fackler	Health Teacher
Heather Francis	Speech Pathologist
Tim Geerlings	Spanish Teacher
Emily Gendrikovs	Math Teacher
Kelsey Gichuki	ESL Interventionist
Bethany Gravert	School Counselor
Richard Green	Food Services
Laura Goldsmith	Science Teacher
Emma Goshgarian	English Teacher
Sgt. Michael Grant	ROTC Instructor
Jocelyn Gutierrez	English Teacher
Scott Ham	Child Care Worker
Isabella Haskin	English Teacher
Sean Hill	Food Services
Christie Hudson	Instructional Parapro
Courtney Irrer	Resource Teacher
Kanneh Jackson	Public Safety
Quantez Jackson	Public Safety
John Jarosz	Science Teacher
Denise Keil	Instructional Coach
Beliathe Kennedy	Science Teacher
Charlene King	Food Services

Instructional & Support Staff

Audrey Ledermann	English Teacher
Susely Lopez-Salvatierra	College & Career Coordinator
Jim Lundy	Social Studies Teacher
Kevin Mahar	History Teacher
Daniel Mancio-Garcia	Records Secretary
Anthony Manly	Science Teacher
Amy Marcusse	Custodian
Joe Martin	Art Teacher
Jacob Masco	Intervention Specialist
Ivonne Melara	Head Secretary
Kim Miller	Resource Teacher
Shannon Miller	Child Care Worker
Bill Morris	Math Teacher
Caleb Moles	Social Studies Teacher
David Moore	Media Specialist
Michaux Moore	Art Teacher
Tracey Moore	Food Services
Jack Mullane	ASD Teacher
Sarah Murphy	Nurse
Michael Murray	English Teacher
Luke Nally	Child Care Worker
Delphine Ndoriyobija	Family Support Specialist
Curtis Neff	English Teacher

Instructional & Support Staff

Jayne Niemann	French Teacher
Colleen Nisbet	Resource Teacher
Stephen Nisbet	Resource Teacher
Will Overland	Social Studies Teacher
Katherine Pitsch	Data Coordinator
Marisa Plouhar	Choir Teacher
Vinny Pulera	Physical Education Teacher
Gustavo Perez Romero	Math Teacher
Jamie Prinsen	Resource Teacher
Sadie Quinlan	ASD Teacher
Becca Quinn	School Counselor
Mark Rasmussen	ASD Teacher
Walter Robertson	Public Safety
Jacqueline Robinson	Math Teacher
Tamara Robinson	Public Safety
Dulce Rodriguez-Vargas	PRS Cherry Health
Joel Rutherford	Social Studies Teacher
Calvin Sielaff	English Teacher
Kolton Shaw	Math Teacher
Wendy Silva	Attendance Secretary
Joy Slager-Hyde	Instructional Coach
Cary Smith	English Teacher
Rebecca Smith	Art Teacher

Instructional & Support Staff

Benjamin Sparks

Newcomer Teacher

Kelly Stauffer

Social Worker

Brandon Steury

Science Teacher

Cory Sutherby

Social Studies Teacher

Terri Swanzy

Registrar

Matt Sytsma

Social Studies Teacher

Andrew Taylor

ASD Teacher

Nathan Teft

English Teacher

Richard Trapp

Math Teacher

Sharon Umlor

Newcomer Teacher

Caitlin VanBragt

GRCC Promise Zone Coordinator

James VanDyke

2nd Shift Teacher

Kimberly Vandenberg

Child Care Worker

Joy VanHarn

Food Service Manager

Mary Wagner

Speech Pathologist

Jolie Williams

Public Safety

Christopher Weaver

Math Teacher

Jeff Westfall

Food Services

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

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Trustee

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Trustee

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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

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.

UNION 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