

GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

GRAND RAPIDS UNIVERSITY PREPARATORY ACADEMY



Thursday, May 22, 2025 at 5:00 pm
Houseman Field | Grand Rapids, MI

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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

Kamora Price

SALUTATORIAN

Elzadie Ladomato-Fischer

ACADEMIC TOP TEN

Kamora Price

Elzadie Ladomato-Fischer

Haley Ramos-Vail

Semaj Robertson

Nylyn Claybrook

Selene Parada-Aragon

Anallely Martinez-Gonzalez

Kamiah Pearson

Maria Ramirez-Lopez

Alina Whitfield

SENIOR CLASS ADVISORS

Mr. Joseph Westover

Mrs. Melissa James

Ms. Tricia Kremke

SEAL OF BILITERACY RECIPIENTS

Joana Garcia-Leon

Maria Hernandez-Reyes

Adolfo Monterroso-Mazariegos

Selene Parada-Aragon

Alvina Ramirez-Lopez

Maria Ramirez-Lopez

Haley Ramos Vail

Usiel Reyes

Luis Saavedra Ornelas

Yordania Velasquez-Lopez

Elizabeth Villegas-Arnada

Congratulations to the Class of 2025! You made it!

We are so incredibly proud of you because, despite all the adversity and hardships you faced, you are graduating. You pushed through tough classes with heavy workloads and high expectations. You stepped out of your comfort zones to help both yourselves and each other. By making it to graduation day, you have proven you have what it takes to achieve your goals.

Your next year will be an adjustment with its own challenges. Embrace the process. Tough it out. Know that it will make you stronger. You have learned so many skills over the past four years to overcome obstacles in high school; these same skills will help you succeed in your life after high school. As long as you believe in yourself as much as we believe in you and you work hard, we know that you will be just as successful as you want to be.

It has been a pleasure getting to know each of you, and we will genuinely miss you. You are fabulous people who have the capability to improve this changing world in which we live.

We wish you well and please remember that you will always be a part of our UPrep family.

Mr. Westover, Mrs. James, Ms. Kremke

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 GRPS Staff Notes

WELCOME

Mr. Jonathan Malone

SUPERINTENDENT’S REMARKS

Dr. Leadriane Roby

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REMARKS

Mrs. Bridget Cheney

UNIVERSITY PREPARATORY ASSOCIATION REMARKS & SCHOLARSHIPS

Mr. Brian Cloyd

PRINCIPAL’S REMARKS

Mrs. Kenyatta Hill-Hall

VALEDICTORIAN’S REMARKS

Miss Kamora Price

UNIVERSITY PREPARATORY ACADEMY FACULTY REMARKS

Mr. Joseph Westover

PRESENTATION OF DIPLOMAS

Mr. Joseph Westover

CELEBRATION OF THE CLASS OF 2025

Grand Rapids Board of Education Trustee

RECESSIONAL

CONGRATULATIONS!

CLASS OF 2025!

Damari Anderson	GRCC
Deylen Andrews-Smith	GRCC
Angelica Benitez	GRCC
David Blair	University of Michigan
Saniya Brown	Western Michigan University
Lino Calderon	GRCC
Ja'Shia Charlton	GRCC
Emilsy Cifuentes-Mendez	GRCC
Nylyn Claybrook	Clark Atlanta University
Amera Crawford	GRCC
Israel Cruz	GRCC
Christian Diaz-Rodas	GRCC
Adriana Farfan	Grand Valley State University
Montserrat Flores Martinez	Central Michigan University
Asharee Foxworth	Central State University
Sheena Garcia	Lake Superior State University
Joana Garcia-Leon	GRCC
Angel Garcia-Tercero	GRCC M-Tec
Jerahmy Gray	Grand Valley State University
Kenya Guyton	University of Michigan
Maria Hernandez-Reyes	GRCC
Jaya Hill	GRCC

CONGRATULATIONS!

CLASS OF 2025!

Shawwna Jeffries	Air Force
Cam'Ran Jones	Kalamazoo College
Elzadie Ladomato-Fisher	Hope College
Alexander Lopez-Santiago	GRCC
Jonathan Lucas-Cabrera	GRCC
Jonathan Malone	Western Michigan University
Payton Manuel	GRCC
Anallely Martinez-Gonzalez	GRCC
Elijah McAlpin	GRCC
Keith Merriweather	Full Sail University
Larry Miguel-Diaz	GRCC
Isela Molina-Reynoso	GRCC
Adolfo Monterroso-Mazariegos	Aquinas College
Amos Murray	GRCC
Markey Norris	GRCC M-Tec
Denis Ordonez-Pablo	Central Michigan University
Selene Parada-Aragon	Grand Valley State University
Oswaldo Pastor	Grand Valley State University
Kamiah Pearson	Michigan State University
Kamora Price	University of Michigan
Alvina Ramirez-Lopez	GRCC
Maria Ramirez-Lopez	Grand Valley State University

CONGRATULATIONS!

CLASS OF 2025!

Haley Ramos-Vail	University of Michigan
Usiel Reyes	Michigan State University
Jamanique Roberson	GRCC
Semaj' Robertson	Kalamazoo College
Aliany Rodriguez	GRCC
Rashawn Rogers	Michigan State University
Alexa Romo	GRCC
Luis Saavedra Ornelas	Grand Valley State University
Silverio Segura	GRCC
Mekail Smith	GRCC
Jonathan Soto-Garcia	Douglas J. Aveda
Erandy Suarez-Ramirez	GRCC
Ryshon Thomas	Community Christian College
Victor Thompson	GRCC
Kirvin Vasquez-Deleon	Workforce
Yordania Velasquez-Lopez	GRCC
Karla Velasquez-Mora	GRCC
Laura Velasquez-Raymundo	GRCC
Elizabeth Villegas-Aranda	Grand Valley State University
Alina Whitfield	University of Michigan
Bre'asia Willis	Grand Valley State University
Ny'Asia Willis	Grand Valley State University
Oscar Xec-Maldonado	GRCC M-Tec

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Usiel Reyes	Michigan State University
Jamanique Roberson	GRCC
Semaj' Robertson	Kalamazoo College
Aliany Rodriguez	GRCC
Rashawn Rogers	Michigan State University
Alexa Romo	GRCC
Luis Saavedra Ornelas	Grand Valley State University
Silverio Segura	GRCC
Mekail Smith	GRCC
Jonathan Soto-Garcia	Douglas J. Aveda
Erandy Suarez-Ramirez	GRCC
Ryshon Thomas	Community Christian College
Victor Thompson	GRCC
Kirvin Vasquez-Deleon	Workforce
Yordania Velasquez-Lopez	GRCC
Karla Velasquez-Mora	GRCC
Laura Velasquez-Raymundo	GRCC
Elizabeth Villegas-Aranda	Grand Valley State University
Alina Whitfield	University of Michigan
Bre'asia Willis	Grand Valley State University
Ny'Asia Willis	Grand Valley State University
Oscar Xec-Maldonado	GRCC M-Tec

UNIVERSITY PREPARATORY ACADEMY

Administration

Kenyatta Hill-Hall, M.Ed.

Principal

Jessalynn Johnson, M.Ed.

Assistant Principal

Michael Reedy, M.Ed.

Dean of Students

Instructional & Support Staff

Alexis Alleman, B.A.

Social Studies Teacher

Christina Anderson, M.S.W.

Therapist

Renee Bekius, A.S.

Health Aid

Allysen Bond, B.A.

Science Teacher

Derrick Cliatt, A.A.

Security

Debra Collier, B.S.

English Teacher

Dean Compton, B.A.

Math Teacher

Elizabeth Dora, B.S.

Social Studies Teacher

Kelsey Duthil, B.A.

Spanish Teacher

Benjamin Fullerson, B.A.

Math Teacher

Hannah Gallon, B.A.

English Teacher

Courtney Gonzalez, B.A.

Choir Teacher

Danielle Grassmid, M.S.

Math Teacher

Marcella Hanley, M.Ed.

Art Teacher

Suzanne Henn, B.S.

Math Teacher

Instructional & Support Staff

Joseph Horn, M.Ed.	Resource Teacher
Arturo Infante, B.A.	Second Secretary
Luke James, M.S.	Science Teacher
Melissa James, B.A.	English Teacher
Alexander Johnson, M.Ed.	Counselor
Sherri Kraai, M.A.	Mastery Learning Support
Tricia Kremke, M.Ed.	English Teacher
Ashleigh Duffett, B.S.	Community Builder
Jolinda Lucas, M.S.	PE/Health Teacher
Jacob Mcdougall, B.A.	English Teacher
Lindsay McInerney, M.A.	Science Teacher
Maria Mckee, M.A.	Strengths-Based Interventionist
Aldony Mendez, B.A.	Behavior Specialist
Makaya Merritt, M.Ed.	Strengths-Based Interventionist
Terry Mitchell, A.A.	Advocate
Courtney Norman, B.A.	Youth Advocate
Hannah Olson, B.A.	Social Studies Teacher
Kathyrn Osbourn, M.Ed.	Science Teacher
Amy Pickell, B.S.	Math Teacher
Karigan Pliml, B.A.	English Teacher
Rocalina Ramos	Nutrition Specialist
Shanitra Reed, A.A.	Security
Tendai Reed, M.Ed.	College and Career Coordinator

Instructional & Support Staff

Jordan Richardson, B.S.

Social Studies Teacher

Jill Rozeveld, B.A.

English Teacher

Annie Schreur, B.A.

Science Teacher

Kaitlyn Schweda, B.A.

English Teacher

Samantha Seaberg, B.S.

Social Studies Teacher

Danyelle Sexton, M.Ed.

Resource Teacher

Erin Shekel, B.A.

Spanish Teacher

Brittany Steffes, M.A.

English Teacher

Doriece Teasley

Parent Action Leader

Chloe VanSickle, M.Ed.

Leadership Teacher

Alisha VerStrate

Head Secretary

Joseph Westover, M.Ed.

Econ/Government/Law Teacher

Grand Rapids University Preparatory Association

Brian Cloyd, Board Chair

John Kennedy, Board Treasurer

Wendy Falb, Board Secretary

Wayman Britt

Rob Elliott, III

Dave Sylvester

Kelsey Bako

Ana Jose

Justin Maxim

Sylvia James

Christina Arnold

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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Aarie Wade

Vice President

José Rodriguez

Secretary

Kimberley Williams

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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.

GRAND RAPIDS UNIVERSITY PREPARATORY ACADEMY 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.