

**GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY**

**OTTAWA HILLS HIGH SCHOOL**

Class of 2024



Wednesday, May 22, 2024 at 5:00 pm

Houseman Field | Grand Rapids, Michigan

[grps.org](http://grps.org)

**GRPS**   
**my choice**®  
Grand Rapids Public Schools

## Dear Graduating Seniors of Ottawa Hills High School,

Congratulations on reaching this remarkable milestone! On behalf of the entire Grand Rapids Public Schools community, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to each and every one of you.

Take a moment to pause and look around you right now. You are surrounded by community. Everyone is here to honor the dedication, hard work, and perseverance you and your classmates have invested in reaching this milestone. We are all here for you.

I want to express my profound gratitude to all who have supported you along the way. From your families and friends to your teachers, mentors, and the entire GRPS community, their unwavering support, guidance, and encouragement have been invaluable in shaping the individual you are today.

During your academic journey, you have faced challenges, celebrated triumphs, and experienced personal growth. Your resilience, determination, and grit have been evident throughout this journey, and they will undoubtedly continue to serve you well as you embark on the next phase of your life.

No matter where you go from here, remember that the GRPS community stands behind you, cheering you on every step of the way. I have no doubt that each of you will go on to achieve incredible things, and we eagerly anticipate celebrating your future successes.

Sincerely,

Leadriane Roby, Ph.D.  
Superintendent

# WELCOME

TO THE OTTAWA HILLS HIGH SCHOOL  
CLASS OF 2024 COMMENCEMENT

*Escanea el Código QR para ver el programa de graduación en español.*

*Sikana QR Code kugirango urebe gahunda yo gutanga impamyabumenyi muri Kinyarwanda.*

*Changanua Msimbo wa QR ili kuona programu ya kuhitimu kwa Kiswahili.*



# OTTAWA HILLS HIGH SCHOOL

Class of 2024

## VALEDICTORIAN

Miguel A. Jeronimo-Perez

## SALUTATORIAN

Jeannette Muhawenimana

## ACADEMIC TOP TEN

Miguel A. Jeronimo-Perez

Jeannette Muhawenimana

Samiya J. Douglas

Yoselin Lopez

P'ierre P. Webb

D'mire L. Sierz

Rafael Masegosa-Arrellano

Jermaine Haley, Jr.

## SEAL OF BILITERACY RECIPIENT

Miguel A. Jeronimo-Perez

## SENIOR CLASS ADVISORS

Mr. Chad Randolph

Mr. Andrew Clausen

# 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 the Ottawa Hills Choir

## WELCOME

Mr. D’mire Sierz

## SUPERINTENDENT’S REMARKS

Dr. Leadriane Roby

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REMARKS

Ms. Bridget Cheney

## PRINCIPAL’S REMARKS

Dr. Timothy Mabin

## SALUTATORIAN’S REMARKS

Ms. Jeannette Muhawenimana

## VALEDICTORIAN’S REMARKS

Mr. Miguel A. Jeronimo-Perez

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER’S REMARKS

Mr. Lucius Hoskins

## PRESENTATION OF THE DIPLOMAS

Mr. Andrew Clausen

## CERTIFICATION OF DIPLOMAS/TASSEL CEREMONY

Grand Rapids Board of Education Trustee

## RECESSIONAL

# CLASS OF 2024

**CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!**

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Abdi Abdikadir  
Courtney Allen  
Aniya Battle  
Stevante' Bogard-Sumrell  
Corbin BrayBoy  
Anyeh Brown  
Tyreez Buchanan  
Kylah-Jordan Buggs  
Lucciano Buggs  
Heaven Cano  
Anarri Carey  
Sincere Carter  
Frederick Charles  
Alana Cox  
Elterauwn Curb  
Ashia Davis  
D'Lilah Davis-Civil  
Samiya Douglas  
Willie Duke

Aum'Bria Earvin  
Charlissa Evans  
Anthony Finley  
Kaylan Gordon  
Desyre Green  
Samuel Greer  
Lakarion Gulley  
Miguel Gutierrez  
Pascal Habimana  
Jermaine Haley  
Monique Haliburton  
Craig Hureskin  
Clemence Irankunda  
Ty'leah Jackson  
Lamont Jamison  
Joy Jenkins  
Miguel Jeronimo-Perez  
Neveah Jones  
Jeylani Juma

Kalynn Keenan  
Kahari King  
Stone Leer  
Deshyia Libbett  
Yoselin Lopez  
Benjamon Maeweather  
Tamarion Mapp  
Rafael Masegosa-Arellano  
Daevon Mayhue  
Dulce Mendoza-Brito  
Janaysha Miller  
Emmanuel Ministre  
Holly Mohamed  
Jakobe Montgomery  
Jeannette Muhawenimana  
Anab Musa  
D'Angelo Nelson  
Evie Patrick  
Taraji Pegram  
Javon Perkins

Elijah Puebla  
Riley Quam  
Sir Ruth  
Jazmine Samuels  
Alphonse Sanders  
Abdulkhadir Sheikh  
D'mire Sierz  
Aaliyah Solorio  
Harmony Speese  
Mariyah Spencer  
Da'ten Strickland  
Marshaun Townsend  
Honette Uwase  
Laurene Uwase  
Jeya Varnado  
Mia Villa  
P'ierre Webb  
Jakayla Williams  
Jermayne Williams

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Our Ottawa Hills 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: Albion College, Barber College of Lansing, Calvin University, Central State University, Community Christian College, Empire Beauty School, Empower U, Ferris State University, Grand Rapids Community College, GRCC-MTEC, Grand Valley State University, Jackson State University, Kuyper College, Michigan State University, Paul Mitchell School, ProServices Trades, St. Thomas University - Houston, Universal Technical Institute, University of Olivet, Western Michigan University.

## OTTAWA HILLS HIGH SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

Timothy Mabin, Ph.D.	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

## OTTAWA HILLS HIGH SCHOOL INSTRUCTIONAL & SUPPORT STAFF

Pearl Robinson	Head Secretary
Leonidia Tolbert	Secretary
Mary Wyles, B.S.	Athletic Secretary
Bethany Levandowski, B.A.	Registrar
Cornell Bailey, A.M.L.S.	Librarian/National Honor Society Director
Celestina Buentello	Health Aide
Cherie Olsen, B.S.N., R.N.	School Nurse
Damika Houston, L.P.C.	Mental Health Therapist
Geoffrey Weaver, L.P.C.	Mental Health Therapist
Amy Hoogstra, F.N.P.	Nurse Practitioner
Kisha Humphrie	Patient Registration Specialist
Ana Ramirez, R.M.A.	Medical Assistant
Rachael Arroyo	Food Service Manager
Venetia Cunningham	Nutrition Service
Felicianita Martinez	Nutrition Service
Hope Berg	Nutrition Service
Jennifer Cruz	Lead Cook
Andrew Clausen, M.Ed.	Head Counselor
Lisa Cook, M.A.	Counselor
June Anderson, M.Ed.	Counselor
Aedin Seck, B.A.	U of M College Advisor
Morgan Hannah, B.F.A.	GRCC Promise Zone Coordinator



Nehemiah Dix	Youth Advocate Specialist
Michala Carter, M.S.	Behavior Specialist
Kendall Jackson, M.S.	Strengths-Based Interventionist
Dominique Burt, B.A.	Strengths-Based Interventionist
James Jones, A.A.	In-House Specialist
Lisa McCoy, B.S.	Child Care Worker
Lelar Clay, A.A.	Child Care Worker
Jackie DeRossi	Paraprofessional
Joycelyn Evans	Paraprofessional
Sean Elock	Child Care Worker
Jacob Oyster, B.S.	Physical Education Teacher
Jeffrey Kinninger, M.Ed.	ROTC Teacher
Aaron Morris, B.S.	ROTC Teacher
Amy Lynn Mabin, M.A.	Health Education Teacher
Erik Love, B.M.	Choir Teacher - Academy of Media Production
Peyton Berce, B.F.A.	Band Teacher
Jennifer Sharp, B.F.A.	Art Teacher
Stephen Smith, M.Ed.	Art Teacher
Lillie McGregory, M.A.	Teacher - Academy of Hospitality & Tourism
Cheryl Garner, B.A.	GRCC Student Navigator
Megan Krawczyk, B.S.	Science Teacher
Ghazala Perveen, M.S.	E2020 Teacher
Brooke Bevins, B.S.	Science Teacher
Melissa Ausua, M.A.	School Renewal Specialist
Christian Verley, M.B.A.	School Renewal Specialist
Aliya Armstrong, Ed.S.	School Renewal Specialist
Colleen Waite, M.Ed.	Special Education Teacher
Laura Sanders, M.Ed.	Special Education Teacher
Tanasia Walker, M.A.	Special Education Teacher Support
Sean Barnes, M.Ed.	Special Education Teacher
Cheri Krogman, M.A.	Speech Pathologist
Yvette Orr, L.M.S.W.	School Social Worker
Jacob Robbins, Psy.S.	School Psychologist
Tara Brown, M.Ed.	English Teacher
Matthew Harrison, M.Phil.	English Teacher

Hannah Barnett, B.A.	English Teacher
Abby Bekins, B.A.	Social Studies Teacher
Jon Duncan, M.S.	Social Studies Teacher
Whitley Morse, M.Ed.	Social Studies Teacher
Anna Ebbitt, BA	Spanish Teacher
A. Wissner, B.S.	Mathematics Teacher
Nicholas Gerstenlauer, B.S.	Mathematics Teacher
Caroline Ford, B.A.	Mathematics Teacher
John Freeman, B.S.	Academic Strategies - Support
Evan Smith, M.A.	Academic Strategies - Support
Donald Singleton	Head Custodian
Marcellus Putnam	Operational Specialist
Ricardo Deleon	Custodian
Faustino Garcia	Public Safety Sergeant
Oscar Plesco, B.S.	Public Safety Officer
Matthew Badger, B.S.	Public Safety Officer
Kristen Betts, B.SW.	Public Safety Officer
Darnell Badger, M.S.	Public Safety Officer
Alonzo Earley	Public Safety Officer

## **GRAND RAPIDS LEARNING CENTER**

### **ADMINISTRATION & STAFF**

Rodney Brown, M.Ed.	Principal
Wilfred Aponte, B.A.	Teacher
Ricky Belton, B.A.	Transition Specialist
Linda Buford, B.A.	Teacher
Maria Cerda	Head Secretary/Registrar
Ashley Covington, M.A.	Counselor
Terence Gaule, M.Ed.	Teacher
Kim Price, M.A.	Special Education Teacher
Kim Price, M.A.	Resource Teacher
Kristen Strojny, B.A.	English 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**

Ms. Kimberley Williams, President  
Ms. Kymberlie Davis, Vice President  
Ms. Katherine Downes Lewis, Secretary  
Ms. Jen Schottke, Treasurer  
Mr. Jordoun Eatman  
Ms. Sara Melton  
Mr. José Rodriguez  
Mr. Raynard Ross  
Ms. Aarie Wade

## **SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

Dr. Leadriane Roby

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

Mr. Melvin Atkins II  
Executive Director of Community and Student Affairs

Dr. Mayda Bahamonde Gunnell  
Executive Director of PK-12 Instructional Leadership  
(Southwest Quadrant)

Mr. Matthew Beresford  
Executive Director of PK-12 Instructional Leadership  
(Northeast Quadrant)

Ms. Bridget Cheney  
Executive Director of PK-12 Instructional Leadership  
(Southeast Quadrant)

Mr. Erich Harmsen  
Executive Director of Professional Learning and Curriculum

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS (CONT.)

Mr. Leon Hendrix  
Executive Director of Communications and External Affairs

Ms. Rukshana Ilahi  
Executive Director of Special Education, Section 504 and Early  
Intervention Services

Mr. Kurt Johnson  
Executive Director of Athletics and Dual Enrollment

Mr. Larry Johnson  
Chief of Staff and Executive Director of Public Safety and  
School Security

Ms. Rhonda Kribs  
Chief Financial Officer

Dr. Brandy Lovelady Mitchell  
Deputy Superintendent of Preschool-12 Learning & Leadership

Ms. Anya Lusk  
Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and General Counsel

Dr. Karl Nelson  
Executive Director of PK-12 Instructional Leadership  
(Northwest Quadrant)

Mr. Alex Smart  
Executive Director of Facilities and Operations



## 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 he 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*

## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

A special thank you to Mr. Larry Johnson, Chief of Staff and Executive Director of Public Safety and School Security, and the Public Safety Officers, for their assistance in making this occasion possible.

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### **DISCLAIMER REGARDING STUDENT 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.

## COMMENCEMENT PHOTOGRAPHS

Your graduate is being professionally  
photographed by GradPix.

You can register and find your photographs here:  
[GRPSGrad.com](http://GRPSGrad.com)

