

**GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY**

UNION HIGH SCHOOL
Class of 2024



Thursday, May 23, 2024 at 7:00 pm
Houseman Field | Grand Rapids, Michigan

grps.org

GRPS 
my choice®
Grand Rapids Public Schools

Dear Graduating Seniors of Union 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

CLASS OF 2024 COMMENCEMENT

VALEDICTORIAN

Kevin Calderon-Leon

SALUTATORIAN

Sarely Rodriguez Garcia

ACADEMIC TOP TEN

Kevin Calderon-Leon

Sarely Rodriguez Garcia

Emmanuel Saldana

Angela Perez Velasquez

Yesenia Garcia Roman

Rosalinda Rios Ramirez

Jamar Dedrick

Nyirabunani Louise

Jonathan Contreras

Marisol Juarez

UNION HIGH SCHOOL

Class of 2024

SEAL OF BILITERACY RECIPIENTS

Naydelin Lucas-Lucas
Annuarite Nyiramugisha
Jenie Velasquez-Garcia
David Guzman
Sarely Rodriguez Garcia
Jeremias Perez-Romero
Pricilla Chavez-Lucas
Gael Atanacio-Valencia
Jennifer Nunez
Marisol Juarez
Yeimy Bamaca Alarcon
Juan Caceres-Morales
Cindy Cervantes-Juarez
Jennifer Chavez-Lucas
Heri Mwenengoma
Mbama Shabani

SENIOR CLASS ADVISORS

Suzanne Jacoby
Tracy Benjamin

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’S REMARKS

Dr. Leadriane Roby

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REMARKS

Dr. Karl Nelson

PRINCIPAL’S REMARKS

Mr. Aaron Roussey

VALEDICTORIAN’S REMARKS

Mr. Kevin Calderon-Leon

UNION HIGH SCHOOL FACULTY MEMBER REMARKS

Mr. Ronald Voisinet

PRESENTATION OF THE DIPLOMAS

Ms. Tracy Benjamin

CERTIFICATION OF DIPLOMAS/TASSEL CEREMONY

Grand Rapids Board of Education Trustee

RECESSIONAL

“Celebration” - Kool and the Gang

CLASS OF 2024

CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!

Abdelhadi Adouma

Kameron Agnew

Virginia Aguilar-Lopez

Jesus Aguilera Saldana

Jacob Alcantar

Karen Aldama-Granados

Devin Allen

Hedaytullah Amarkhail

Fabiola Andres-Vasquez

Alexander Ash

Gael Atanaciovalencia

Yeimy Bamaca Alarcon

Dwayne Barnett

Estevan Barrios Rodriguez

Denilson Barrose-Hernandez

Alayna Bartman

Eduardo Bedolla

Mario Bedolla Jimenez

Alondra Bedolla Zurita

Janiya Berry

Nicole Birdsell

Speciose Bitendano

Sa'niyah Blakely

Kakozi Bolenge

Christyles Bowman

Hakeem Brandon-Williams

Gorjus Brookins

Jersey Brown

Zaria Brown

Genesis Brown

Marquise Broyles

Benjamin Buchanan

Anthony Burns

Ireland Butler

Felix Byaese

Juan Caceres-Morales

Kevin Calderon-Leon

Fatima Calderon-Martinez

Fidel Cardona Lopez

Angel Carmona

Jonatan Centeno Garcia
Cindy Cervantes-Juarez
Jennifer Chavez-Lucas
Priscilla Chavez-Lucas
Magdalena Ciprian-Mejia
London Coates
Jonathan Contreras
Darneil Craft
Stephanie Cruz
Terrell Daniels Jr.
Jamar Dedrick
Sander De Leon Velasquez
Joselyne Uwibambe Diane
Miriam Diaz-Ornelas
Otis Elliott Jr.
Javan Elzie
Jahvin Ervin
Mateo Esteban-Mateo
Ishimwe Favour
Brian Fermin
Pablo Fernandez
Isaiah Floyd
Ivaun Ford
Elijah Foster
Hannah Francisco
Adonis Galindez
Sarah Garcia
Angel Garcia Rosiles
Erik Garcia Saldana
Xitlaly Garcia-Arreguin
Yesenia GarciaRoman
Yasmin Garrido-Hernandez
Autumn Gerou

Ryan Gobert
Anthony Gomez Yanez
Ronald Gomez-Morales
Karina GomezLuna
Joosten Gonzalez
Julissa Gonzalez
Amy Gonzalez Mancilla
Nelson Gonzalez Pablo
Kristie Goree
Michael Grice
Kareese Griffin
Natan GrullonCepeda
David Guzman
Jacob Hanes
Amir Hanna
Sedia Hantambo
Austin Hapner
Alani Harris
Kamiya Harry
Irumva Heritier
Felix Hernandez Jr.
Betsy Hernandez Martinez
Andy Hernandez-Marroquin
Cynthia Hernandez-Servin
Timothy Hickox
Lauryn Hill
Marquel Hill
Gabrielle Hood
Jimm Huinil Lopez
Divine Ishimwe
Javier Jacobo
Jennifer Jean Baptiste
Annette Jimenez-Guzman

Omar Jimenez Zapien
Analisse Juarez
Marisol Juarez
Orlando Juarez Arellano
Steven Karwat
Shawn Keshick
Gary Kirkbride
Nathaniel Klemish
Kamea Knox
Cathleen Lagunes Rodriguez
Troy Langford
Divonte Lee
Jenna Lewis
Jose Lopez
Isaid Lopez
Maria Lopez Velasquez
Nyirabunani Louise
Karina Lozano Mendez
Naydelin Lucas Lucas
Denise Manzanero
Derecko Martin
Jose Martinez-Ramos
Nevaeh Mason
Elia Matenga
Naun Matute Perez
Glendy Mazariegos
Gloria Maze
Thomas McDonald
Cory McGill
Liah Mejia
Silvana Mendez-Lucas
Leslie Meneses-Mendez
Arlet Meneses-Padilla

Elizabeth Mesta
Leslie Mesta
Daisy Miguel
Maria Miguel Francisco
Elaina Mikrut
Riley Milanowski
Geldy Morales Garcia
Emmi Morales-Zavala
Grace Mugwaneza
Patient Munezero
Selena Munoz
Heri Mwenengoma
Ardadi Nane
Frederick Nixon Jr.
Jennifer Nunez
Louise Nyirakarimbi
Annuarite Nyiramugisha
Creon - Jawdat Obichere
Josue Olivo
Nyasia Otte
Ricardo Pablo Rafael
Alexia Peelman
Angela Perez Velasquez
Josue Perez-Diaz
Jeremias Perez-Romero
Reginald Perkins
Ashyis Person
Rafael Puente
Alan Ramirez Becerra
Jose Ramirez Meneses
Kelvin Ramirez-Velasquez
Myron Randall
Fatima Raymundo-Rafael

Makayla Reynolds
Ty'Jon Rimer-Mckinstry
Rosalinda Riosramirez
Jessica Rios-Sosa
Rafael Rodriguez
Sarely Rodriguez Garcia
Julicia Rogers
Leah Ross
Marisol Rubio-Perez
Brandon Ruiz Gomez
Lionnel Sagamba
Emmanuel Saldana
Susceley Sanchez-Chajal
Kliver Sanchez-Marroquin
Miracle Sanders
Malachi Scott
Christopher Secundino-
Rodriguez
Jessica Segura
Mbama Shabani
Emran Sharifi
Remy Shimisha
Harshdeep Singh
Antonia Smith
Ciara Smith
Knowledge Smith
Phillip Smith
Cynthia Soria Rivera
Dennis Stocking
Elijah Straight
Riley Styes
Shania Toussaint
Malachi Traver

Curtis Tunnison
Cyncir Tutson
Noella Uwimana
Aline Uwineza
Bora Uzima
Joanna Valdezluna
Kevin Vazquez Aguilar
Vanessa Vega-Salinas
Pedro Velasquez Lopez
Jennifer Velasquez Lopez
Dany Velasquez Vail
Jenie Velasquez-Garcia
Justin Velasquez-Mendez
Maria Villarreal Miranda
Grace Vultaggio
Cora Wables
Kenniaja Wade Jones
Kenniya Wade Jones
Nasir Wallace
Aniya Ware
Katana Whitehead
Corey Whitehead
Coreyon Whitehead
Isaiah Wiese
Dominic Williams
Leon Wilondja
Deandra Workman
Dee Zuah

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, Army National Guard, Baker College, Calvin University, Davenport University, Dorsey College, Douglas J. Aveda Institute, Ferris State University, Grand Rapids Community College, Grand Rapids Community College MTEC, Grand Valley State University, Lansing Community College, Michigan State University, United States Marines, University of Michigan, 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
Nathaniel Mayfield, B.A.	Dean of Students
Justin Walker, M.A.	Athletic Director

UNION HIGH SCHOOL INSTRUCTIONAL & SUPPORT STAFF

Carmen Amaro, B.A.	Family Support Specialist
Richard Angstman, B.S.	Teacher
Lisa Baird, M.A.	Teacher
Ernesto Barraza, M.A.	Teacher
Tracy Benjamin, M.A.	College & Career Coordinator
Morgan Bills, B.A.	KSSN Coordinator
Linda Blakemore, M.M.	Teacher
Joshua Brandsen, M.Ed.	Teacher
Vincent Brewer, B.A.	Public Safety Officer
Thomas Bucks, M.A.	Teacher
Jennifer Burns	Athletic Secretary
Amanda Bursey, B.A.	Teacher
Amber Cain, M.A.	Teacher
Colson Ceglarek, B.S.	Teacher
Janine Chilufya, B.S.	Parapro
Nicholas Claus, M.A.	Teacher
Kelli Cochran, M.S.	Teacher
Hannah Cole, M.A.	Teacher
Rory Coplin, B.A.	Student Advocate
Erika Curtiss, M.S.	Teacher
Tensia DeBoer	Parapro

James DeVoe, M.M.	Teacher
McKenna DeWolf, B.A.	Teacher
Patrick Dimpsey, M.A.	Teacher
Peter Dondit, M.A.	Teacher
Raymone Dooley	Child Care Worker
Angie Drake	Occupational Therapist
Nicole Durso, M.S.	Teacher
Mike Eddington, M.S.	Teacher
Jeffrey Ells, M.Ed.	Teacher
Johnathan Faber, M.A.	Teacher
James Fryer, M.A.	Teacher
Timothy Geerlings, M.A.	Teacher
Emily Gendrikovs, M.S.	Teacher
Kelsey Gichuki, B.A.	Teacher
Xavier Golden, B.A.	Teacher
Laura Goldsmith, B.S.	Teacher
Bethany Gravert, M.A.	Counselor
Jocelyn Gutierrez, B.A.	Teacher
Scott Ham	Child Care Worker
Mary Ann Harris, M.A.	Counselor
Isabella Haskin, B.A.	Teacher
Courtney Heeren, B.A.	Teacher
Christie Hudson, B.A.	Parapro
Quantez Jackson, A.A.	Public Safety Officer
Suzanne Jacoby, M.A.	Head Counselor
Jordan Jennings	Health Aide
Denise Keil, M.S.	Teacher Consultant
Michael Keogan, B.S.	Teacher
Audrey Ledermann, B.A.	Teacher
Jim Lundy, B.S.	Teacher
Kevin Mahar, M.A.	Teacher
Daniel Mancio-Garcia	Records Secretary
Antonio McDaniel, B.A.	College Career Coordinator
Ivonne Melara, B.A.	Head Secretary
Kimberley Miller, M.A.	Teacher

Shannon Miller	Parapro
Caleb Moles, B.S.	Teacher
David Moore	Media Specialist
William Morris, M.A.	Teacher
Jack Mullane, B.S.	Teacher
Sara Murphy, B.S.	Nurse
Michael Murray, B.S.	Teacher
Luke Nally	Child Care Worker
Delphine Ndoriyobija, B.A.	Family Support Specialist
Curtis Neff, B.A.	Teacher
Jayne Niemann, M.S.	Teacher
Colleen Nisbet, M.A.	Teacher
Steven Nisbet, M.A.	Teacher
Diana Nystrom, A.A.	Child Care Worker
Daniel O'Campo, B.A.	Teacher
Katherine Pitsch, M.A., M.S.	Student Data Specialist
Gustavo Perez Romero, B.S.	Teacher
Marisa Plouhar, B.M.E.	Teacher
Jamie Prinsen, M.Ed.	Teacher
Sadie Quinlan, M.S.	Teacher
Mark Rasmussen, M.S.	Teacher
Jacqueline Robinson, M.Ed.	Teacher
Tamara Robinson, B.S.	Teacher
Joel Rutherford, B.A.	Teacher
Calvin Sielaff, B.S.	Teacher
Mike Shalhoup, B.A.	Teacher
Kolton Shaw, B.S.	Instructional Coach
Cary Smith, M.A.	Teacher
Rebecca Smith, M.Ed.	Teacher
Benjamin Sparks, M.A.	Teacher
Kelley Stauffer, M.S.	Social Worker
Chad Steffes, B.S.	Teacher
Brandon Steury, M.S.	Teacher
Chad Sturm, M.S.	Teacher

Cory Sutherby, M.A.	Teacher
Terry Swanzy	Registrar
Andrew Taylor, B.S.	Teacher
Nathan Teft, M.A.	Teacher
Richard Trapp, M.A.	Teacher
Kim Vandenberg	Child Care Worker
James VanDyke, M.Ed.	Teacher
Scott Van Essen, B.A.	Intervention Specialist
Joy VanHarn	Kitchen Supervisor
Sgt. Ronald Voisinet, A.A.	ROTC Instructor
Mary Wagner	Speech Pathologist
Robert Ware, M.S.	ROTC Instructor
Christopher Weaver, B.A.	Teacher

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

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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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)

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS (CONT.)

Mr. Erich Harmsen
Executive Director of Professional Learning and Curriculum

Mr. Leon Hendrix
Executive Director of Communications and External Affairs

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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

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.

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 at:
GRPSGrad.com

