

**GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY**

**GRAND RAPIDS UNIVERSITY
PREPARATORY ACADEMY
Class of 2024**



Thursday, May 23, 2024 at 5:00 pm
Houseman Field | Grand Rapids, Michigan

grps.org

GRPS 
my choice[®]
Grand Rapids Public Schools

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 Kiswahil.



Dear Graduating Seniors of Grand Rapids University Preparatory Academy,

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 GRAND RAPIDS UNIVERSITY PREPARATORY ACADEMY CLASS OF 2024 COMMENCEMENT

Congratulations to the Class of 2024 -- You made it!

We are so incredibly proud of you because despite all of the adversity and hardships that you have had to face, you are graduating. You have pushed through tough classes with heavy workloads and high expectations. You have stepped out of your comfort zones to help both yourselves and each other. By making it to graduation day, you have proven that 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 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 ever-changing world for the better.

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

Mr. Westover and Ms. Kremke

GRAND RAPIDS UNIVERSITY PREPARATORY ACADEMY

Class of 2024

VALEDICTORIAN

Meissin Monterroso-Mazariegos

SALUTATORIAN

Nas Brooks

ACADEMIC TOP TEN

Meissin Monterroso-Mazariegos

Nas Brooks

Rubi Esquivel-Esteban

Lillian Tomorsky

Marisol Franco-Leon

Danilo Hernandez-Perez

Jordan Hampton

Alana Branch

Aracely Mateo-Martin

Amy Calderon Monterroso

SENIOR CLASS ADVISOR

Mr. Joseph Westover

Ms. Tricia Kremke

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

PROCESSIONAL MARCH

“Pomp and Circumstance” by Edward Elgar

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Colors presented by the Union High School JROTC Color Guard
“Star Spangled Banner” performed by GRPS Staff Notes

WELCOME

Mr. Nas Brooks

SUPERINTENDENT’S REMARKS

Dr. Leadriane Roby

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REMARKS

Mrs. Bridget Cheney

UNIVERSITY PREPARATORY ASSOCIATION REMARKS & SCHOLARSHIPS

Mr. Rob Elliott, Board Member

PRINCIPAL’S REMARKS

Mrs. Kenyatta Hill-Hall

VALEDICTORIAN’S REMARKS

Mr. Meissin Monterroso-Mazariegos

UNIVERSITY PREPARATORY ACADEMY FACULTY REMARKS

Mr. Joseph Westover

Ms. Tricia Kremke

PRESENTATION OF THE DIPLOMAS

Mr. Joseph Westover

CERTIFICATION OF DIPLOMAS/TASSEL CEREMONY

Grand Rapids Board of Education Trustee

RECESSIONAL

“Can’t Stop the Feeling” - Justin Timberlake

CLASS OF 2024

CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!

Jamela Ali	GRCC
Laila Armstrongspencer	GRCC
Jacqueline Banda	GRCC
Jyziah Beckford	GRCC
Kavari Bradley	Abilene Christian University
Alana Branch	GRCC/GVSU
Caryn Brisco	GRCC
Nas Brooks	Western Michigan University
Amy Calderon Monterroso	Western Michigan University
Zaire Calmese	Grand Valley State University
Riley Carson	GRCC
Jadelyn Cooke-Townsel	Southwestern Michigan College
Saniyah Craig	Ferris State University
Kittim Cruz	GRCC
Emely DeLeon-Gramajo	GRCC
Brittany Dominguez	GRCC
Ronald Douglas	GRCC
Amajay Ervin	GRCC
Rubi Esquivel-Esteban	GRCC
Jakahri Ezell	GRCC

Marisol Franco-Leon	GRCC
Jeremias Garcia-Loarca	Workforce
Jordan Hampton	Grand Valley State University
Ariyah Hayes	GRCC
Daniela Hernandez-Agustin	GRCC
Danilo Hernandez-Perez	GRCC
Jose Huesca-Carmona	GRCC
Diamond Inge	GRCC/HBCU
Shawnessa Jeffries	GRCC
Mi'ara Johnson	GRCC
Dejanae Long	Remington College
Yordi Lopez-Gonzalez	M-TEC
James Lockett	GRCC
Jayla Lockett	GRCC
Janet Madero-Camilo	GRCC
Kyla Malone	GRCC
Aracely Mateo-Martin	GRCC
Kahari Mayfield	GRCC
Trinity McGhee	Michigan State University
Abran Mendez-Lopez	Central Michigan University
Meissin Monterroso-Mazariegos	Grand Valley State University
Nai'Syia Moore	Western Michigan University
Damarcus Mosley	GRCC
Yadira Ordonez-Pablo	GRCC
Phallon Patterson	Baker College
Ny'Karia Peoples	Davenport
Katherine Perez-Velazquez	GRCC
Jonathan Ramirez	GRCC
Christian Ramos-Cano	Grand Valley State University
Jamarion Reed	GRCC
Delwin Reyes-Rodas	GRCC
Brendan Roberson	GRCC/Western Michigan University

Jordan Romo	GRCC
Taneshia Rosser	Workforce
Jolissa Rucker	GRCC
Dorian Sanders	U.S. Navy
Janae Stewart	GRCC
Taevon Thomas	GRCC
Lillian Tomorsky	GRCC
Trejion Tyms	M-TEC
Liliana Valle-Chavez	GRCC
Kennedy Walker	GRCC
Mr. Willis	Truck Driving School

GRAND RAPIDS UNIVERSITY PREPARATORY ACADEMY ADMINISTRATION

Kenyatta Hill-Hall, M.Ed.	Principal
Jessalynn Johnson, M.Ed.	Assistant Principal
Michael Reedy, M.Ed.	Dean of Students

GRAND RAPIDS UNIVERSITY PREPARATORY ACADEMY INSTRUCTIONAL & SUPPORT STAFF

Christina Anderson, M.S.W.	Therapist
Renee Beikus, A.S.	Health Aid
Allysen Bond	Science Teacher
Derrick Cliatt, A.A.	Security
Debra Collier	English Teacher
Dean Compton, B.A.	Math Teacher
Elizabeth Dora, B.S.	Social Studies Teacher
Kelsey Duthil, B.A.	Spanish Teacher
Benjamin Fullerton, B.S.	Math Teacher
Hannah Gallon, B.A.	English Teacher
Danielle Grassmid, M.S.	Math Teacher
Marcella Hanley, M.Ed.	Art Teacher
Joseph Horn	Resource Teacher
Arturo Infante, B.A.	Second Secretary
Kristen Janse-VanNoordwyk, B.A.	Science Teacher
Alexander Johnson	Counselor
Sherri Kraai, M.A.	Master Learning Support
Tricia Kremke, M.Ed.	English Teacher
Ashleigh Laho, B.S.	Community Builder
Jolinda Lucas, M.S.	PE/Health Teacher

Jacob McDougall, B.A.	English Teacher
Maria Mckee, M.A.	Strengths Based Interventionist
Aldony Mendez	Behavior Specialist
Makya Merritt, M.Ed.	Strengths Based Interventionist
Joseph Miles	Science Teacher
Emily Mills, B.A.	Music Teacher
Courtney Norman, B.A.	Youth Advocate
Hannah Olson	Social Studies Teacher
Kathryn Osbourn, M.Ed.	Science Teacher
Maiyulah Pantojas, M.Ed.	English Teacher
Marcy Pearce, M.A.	Math Teacher
Amy Pickell, B.S.	Math Teacher
Rocalina Ramos	Nutrition Specialist
Shanitra Reed, A.A.	Security
Tendai Reed, M.Ed.	College and Career Coordinator
Jordan Richardson, B. S.	Social Studies Teacher
Terese Ringler, B.A.	Social Studies Teacher
Jill Rozeveld, B.A.	English Teacher
Annie Schreur, B.A.	Science Teacher
Samantha Seaberg, B.S.	Social Studies Teacher
Danyelle Sexton, M.Ed.	Resource Teacher
Erin Shekell, B.A.	Spanish Teacher
Brittany Steffes, B.A.	English Teacher
Doriece Teasley, B.A.	Parent Action Leader
Chloe VanSickle, B.A.	Leadership Teacher
Alisha VerStrate	Head Secretary
Eddie Wesley	Math Teacher
Joseph Westover, M.Ed.	Government & Economics 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

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)

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS (CONT.)

Mr. Erich Harmsen
Executive Director of Professional Learning and Curriculum

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

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.

GRAND RAPIDS UNIVERSITY PREPARATORY ASSOCIATION

Mr. Brian Cloyd, Board Chair

Mr. John Kennedy, Board Treasurer

Ms. Wendy Falb, Board Secretary

Mr. Wayman Britt

Mr. Rob Elliott, III

Mr. Dave Sylvester

Ms. Kelsey Bako

Ms. Ana Jose

Mr. Justin Maxim

Ms. Sylvia James

Ms. Christina Arnold

COMMENCEMENT PHOTOGRAPHS

Your graduate is being professionally
photographed by GradPix.

You can register and find your photographs at:
GRPSGrad.com

