

GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

Class of 2024



Tuesday, May 21, 2024 at 7:00 pm

Houseman Field | Grand Rapids, Michigan

grps.org



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 Innovation Central High School and Grand Rapids Montessori,

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 CLASS OF 2024 COMMENCEMENT



Academy of Business, Leadership, & Entrepreneurship

Academy of Design & Construction

Academy of Health Sciences & Technology

Academy of Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math

Academy of Learning, Teaching & Social Justice

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

PROCESSIONAL MARCH

“Pomp and Circumstance” by Edward Elgar, performed by the
Grand Rapids Montessori Band

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Colors presented by Innovation Central JROTC Color Guard
“Star Spangled Banner” performed by Grand Rapids
Montessori Choir

WELCOME

Mr. Melvin Imoh

SUPERINTENDENT’S REMARKS

Dr. Leadriane Roby

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REMARKS

Mr. Matthew Beresford

GRAND RAPIDS MONTESSORI PRINCIPAL’S REMARKS

Mrs. Kerri Reed

INNOVATION CENTRAL PRINCIPAL’S REMARKS

Dr. Jason McGhee

GRAND RAPIDS MONTESSORI VALEDICTORIAN’S REMARKS

Mr. Coen MacGregor, Valedictorian

INNOVATION CENTRAL VALEDICTORIAN’S REMARKS

Mr. Klester Hernandez-Diaz

CEREMONY (CONT.)

INNOVATION CENTRAL STUDENTS' REMARKS

Maria Pablo-Perez, Jennifer Ramirez-Francisco Yahira,
Amy Rios-Sosa, Rosa Hernandez-Tapia & Andre Escobar

ANNOUNCING NAMES OF GRADUATES

Mrs. Stacia Gill, Faculty

Grand Rapids Montessori

Mrs. Leigh Ann McCready, Faculty

Innovation Central High School

Mrs. Keri Johnson, Faculty

Innovation Central High School

PRESENTATION OF THE DIPLOMAS

Mrs. Kerri Reed, Principal

Grand Rapids Montessori High School

Dr. Jason McGhee, Principal

Innovation Central High School

CERTIFICATION OF DIPLOMAS

TASSEL CEREMONY

Board of Education Trustee

RECESSIONAL

Grand Rapids Montessori Band

GRAND RAPIDS MONTESSORI HIGH SCHOOL

Class of 2024

VALEDICTORIAN

Coen MacGregor

SALUTATORIAN

Liam Duncan

TOP FIVE SENIORS

Coen MacGregor

Liam Duncan

Valentin Parra

Lucia Jacques

Riley Schmidt

SENIOR CLASS ADVISOR

Ms. Selin Turan

CLASS OF 2024

GRAND RAPIDS MONTESSORI HIGH SCHOOL

Amelon Andemariam	Workforce
Caileb Austin	Aquinas College
Jada Brown	Grand Rapids Community College
Boston Cash	Workforce
William DeAnda	Grand Rapids Community College
Raven Dietzel	Grand Rapids Community College
Cliona Duncan	Workforce
Liam Duncan	Ferris State University
Makya Faison-Morris	Grand Rapids Community College
Isaiah Fields	Grand Rapids Community College
Javen Figueroa-Johnson	
Olivia Hill	Grand Valley State University
Victor Huinil Phommavongsa	Grand Rapids Community College
Lukas Humphrey	Grand Rapids Community College
Lucia Jacques	Mount Holyoke College
Lillian Kasperski	Grand Valley State University
Zeb Lowing	Grand Rapids Community College
Coen MacGregor	Wayne State University
Elijah McWilliams	Grand Rapids Community College
Angel Mireles	Michigan State University
Valentin Parra	Grand Rapids Community College
Alex Perez	Grand Rapids Community College
Seth Pierce	Grand Rapids Community College
Carl Pollert Conant	Grand Rapids Community College
Marek Remtema	Grand Rapids Community College
Riley Schmidt	Grand Rapids Community College

Boris Smith
Decorion Smith
Oliver Valdez

Michigan State University
Grand Rapids Community College
Grand Rapids Community College

GRAND RAPIDS MONTESSORI HIGH SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

Kerri Reed, M.A.	Principal
Christy Price, M.Ed.	Assistant Principal
Theron Brown, B.A.	Dean of Students

GRAND RAPIDS MONTESSORI HIGH SCHOOL INSTRUCTIONAL & SUPPORT STAFF

Heather Alward, M.Ed.	Special Education Teacher
Mara Beck, M.S.W.	Mental Health Therapist
Franchesca Beningo, B.S.	Science Teacher
Jamie Duffey, B.S.	Behavior Specialist
Beth Gazella Falknor, M.A.	Choir Teacher
Stacia Gill, M.Ed.	English Teacher
Kathryn Krueger, M.S.	Social Studies Teacher
Joshua Meerman, B.S.	Physical Education Teacher
José Molero, M.Ed.	Spanish Teacher
Elizabeth Ostrowski, M.Ed.	Math Teacher
Rebecca Quinn, M.Ed.	Counselor
Matthew Rodriguez, B.A.	Social Studies Teacher
Ellen Runkle-Ford, B.A.	Art Teacher
Michelle Smith	Paraprofessional
Selin Turan, B.S.	Science Teacher
Juanita Tyler, A.A.	Head Secretary
Nathan Weber, M.A.	Band Teacher

INNOVATION CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

Class of 2024

VALEDICTORIAN

Klester Hernandez-Diaz

SALUTATORIAN

Amy Rios-Sosa

Rosa Hernandez-Tapia

TOP TEN SENIORS

Klester Hernandez-Diaz

Amy Rios-Sosa

Rosa Hernandez-Tapia

Melvin U. Imoh

Andrew Heckenmueller

Shayla L. Tong

Lidia Ramirez Molina

Leonie Uwera

Aracely Pedro-Tercero

Jessica E. Alvarez

SENIOR CLASS ADVISOR

Mrs. Tori Berg

SEAL OF BILITERACY RECIPIENTS

Jonathan Velasquez-Aguilar

Lorena Sosa-Parada

Ana Gonzalez

Jessica Alvarez

Deyson Rosario

Jessis Bernal-Ortiz

Elena Estaban-Tercero

Aracely Pedro-Tercero

Briseyda Maldonado

CLASS OF 2024

INNOVATION CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

Jeovany Abac-Mendoza	ABLE	GRCC M-tec
Kaionna Allen	AHST	GRCC
Khashari Arterberry	AHST	GRCC
Ashton Bajtko	ADC	Michigan State University
DeShaune Banks Jr.	ASTEM	Gwinnett Technical College
R'Mani Belcher	ADC	GVSU
Jessey Bernal-Ortiz	ASTEM	GRCC
Sarah Brown	AHST	Jackson State University
Drew Burchard-Mease	ABLE	Workforce
Elsa Burns	ALTSJ	Empower You
Alexavier Buswa	ADC	GRCC
Hernan Campos	AHST	GRCC
Jorge Cardenas Hernandez	ADC	Workforce
Lillie Charity	AHST	GRCC
Joseph Christian	ABLE	Workforce
Lacie Chumney	ADC	GRCC
Michelle Cruz-Dominguez	ADC	GRCC
Septima Dalton		Workforce
Jecori Davis	ABLE	Xavier University
Liangie De Leon Gomez	ASTEM	GRCC
Marshall DeGarmo	ADC	Michigan Career Technical Institute
Jessica Deleon-Aguilar	ABLE	GRCC
TeShia Dukes	ABLE	Western Michigan University
Osvin Escalante	ADC	Empower You
Andres Escobar Loarca	AHST	GVSU

Yulisa Escobar-Reyes	AHST	GRCC
Elena Esteban Tercero	AHST	GVSU
Jessica Estrada-Alvarez	ABLE	Michigan State University
Angel Estrada-Guillen	SECP	
Ariadne Falfan-Meija	AHST	GRCC
Jason Figueroa-Cifuentes	ABLE	Empower You
Dequelle Filsaime	ABLE	GRCC
Diego Flores-Gomez	ADC	GRCC M-Tec
Jalissa Flores-Guerra	ABLE	GRCC
Jennifer Garcia Reynoso	AHST	GRCC
Eliseo García-Cos	ABLE	Marines
Damaris Garcia-Rodriguez	ABLE	GRCC
Yasmine Gomez	ASTEM	GRCC
Ana Gonzalez Garcia	AHST	GRCC
Jha'Nathan Grant	ADC	GRCC
Jakierra Griffin	AHST	GRCC
Joana Gutierrez-Hermoso	ALTSJ	Ferris State University
Dewayne (Dj) Hall	ABLE	GRCC
Brennan Hanberry	ALTSJ	GRCC
Semia Hantambo	AHST	Empower You
Seneya Harmon	ABLE	GRCC
Carneiscia Harris	AHST	GRCC
Andrew Heckenmueller	ASTEM	Workforce
Kaleeyah Height	AHST	Empire
Luis Hernandez-Castaneda	ASTEM	GRCC
Klester Hernandez-Diaz	ABLE	Michigan State University
Rosa Hernandez-Tapia	ASTEM	United States Air Force
Gaylon Hoffman	ADC	Workforce
Melvin Imoh	ASTEM	GRCC
Evan Karns	ASTEM	Workforce
Tarvis Kelley Jr	ABLE	Workforce
Bahati Kiiza	ADC	Workforce

Jeremiah LaGrone	ADC	GRCC
Adelso Loarca Aguilar	ADC	GRCC M-Tec
Karuna Lock	ASTEM	Oregon State University
Anabela Lopez-Lopez	AHST	GRCC
Ashley Lopez-Mazariegos	AHST	GRCC
Dominic Magoon	ABLE	Workforce
Briseyda Maldonado	AHST	GRCC
Alfredo Martinez Jr	ADC	University Massachusset Boston
Sandra Mazariegos Coronado	ASTEM	GRCC
Josiah McGuire	ADC	GVSU
Mia McLaughlin	ABLE	Workforce
Monserrat Mendez-Perez	ASTEM	GVSU
Sharlyn Mendoza Matias	AHST	GRCC
Cesar Moctezuma	ADC	GRCC M-Tec
Angie Morales-Hernandez	AHST	GRCC
Juan Mora-Rodriguez	AHST	Workforce
Anthony Murphy	ADC	Workforce
Bofisi Ndakize	ABLE	GVSU
Malahja Noble	ADC	GRCC
Maria Pablo Perez	AHST	GRCC
Aracely Pedro-Tercero	AHST	GRCC
Horlando Perez Rosario	ADC	Workforce
Julio Perez-Morales	ABLE	GRCC
Amilliana Peters	ALTSJ	GRCC
Leila Price-Morris	ABLE	GRCC
Sebastian Puente-Vargas	AHST	United States Navy
Jennifer Ramirez Francisco Yahaira	AHST	GRCC
Lidia Ramirez-Molina	AHST	GVSU
Tayshaun Rink	ADC	Michigan Career Technical Institute
Amy Rios-Sosa	AHST	Univ. Detroit Mercy at Aquinas
Alana Roberts	ABLE	GVSU
Christian Rodríguez	ABLE	Michigan State University

Marlon Rosales Moyao	ASTEM	GRCC
Deyson Rosario	ASTEM	GRCC
Izabelle Rose	ABLE	GRCC
Alliah Rowe	ABLE	GRCC
Megan Santizo	ALTSJ	Empower You
Juan Santos-Varelas	ABLE	GRCC
Aryn Shepherd	ASTEM	Workforce
Deshanisty Smith	ASTEM	GRCC
Lorena Sosa-Parada	ABLE	GVSU
McKala Stanley	ABLE	GVSU
McKenzie Stanley	ABLE	GRCC
Kaniya Statham	AHST	GRCC
Carmelo Taylor	ABLE	GRCC
Da'Maya Taylor	AHST	Ferris State University
Sherleen Tomas Juarez	AHST	Workforce
Aracely Tomás-Juarez	AHST	United States Army
Shayla Tong	AHST	College Ferris State
Isingizwe Tuyisenge	AHST	Undecided
Faustin Tuyishime	ABLE	GVSU
Leonie Uwera	ABLE	GVSU
Scott Vandenberg	ADC	Workforce
Dania Vasquez Ortiz	AHST	Workforce
Jimmi Vasquez-Penagos	ABLE	GVSU
Paul Vazquez	ASTEM	GRCC
Jonathan Velasquez Aguilar	ADC	GRCC M-Tec
Andre Walker	ASTEM	Columbia College
Sa'karria Walker	AHST	Western Michigan University
Tiyanna Wimberly	AHST	GRCC
Rey Zarate Hernández	ADC	GRCC M-TEC

ABLE	Academy of Business, Leadership, & Entrepreneurship
ADC	Academy of Design & Construction
AHST	Academy of Health Sciences & Technology
ASTEM	Academy of Science, Technology, Engineering & Math
ALTSJ	Academy of Learning, Teaching & Social Justice

INNOVATION CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

Jason McGhee, Ed.D.	Principal
Derrick Martin, M.Ed.	Assistant Principal
Nataša Karic, M.Ed.	Dean of Students

INNOVATION CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL INSTRUCTIONAL & SUPPORT STAFF

Michelle Alber, M.Ed.	ABLE Lead Teacher
Dagoberto Alvarado	Paraprofessional
Jenn Bell	Head Secretary
Tori Berg, M.N.S.	Post Graduation Success Coordinator
Jeremy Bissett, M.Ed.	Counselor
Stephen Brennan, B.A.	Spanish Teacher
Carol Brookens, M.Ed.	English Teacher
Kimberly Buckner, M.A.	Special Education Teacher
Shawn Buggs, B.A.	Youth Advocate
Nancy Clements	Literacy Paraprofessional
Wendy Dean, M.Ed.	Resource Teacher
Jessica DeJong, M.A.	Science Teacher
Dan Donovan, M.A.	Math Teacher
Mark Dykstra, B.A.	Science Teacher
Deannia Friend, B.S.	Paraprofessional
Elisabeth Giem, M.Ed.	ASTEM Lead Teacher
Melissa Gorman, M.A.	Resource Teacher

James Gunner-Zoerman, B.A.
Taylor Harmon, B.S.
Willa Hill, M.A.
Carolyn Hintz, M.A.
Kathy Hodder, B.S.
Audrey Jennings, M.A.
Keri Johnson, M.A.
Cassandra Kelch
Ltc. Pat Kerbuski, M.B.A.
Michael Larson, B.S.
Andrew Marcks, B.S.
Jordan Mayberry, M.A.
Leigh Ann McCready, M.Ed.
Joanna Mueller, M.A.
Sultan Muhammad, M.S.
Lisa Orban-Cowley, M.Ed.
Roger Patrick, M.A.
Kristin Philips, Ed.S.
Jodi Pyper, B.S.N., R.N.
Amy Rambadt, B.A.
Joseph Reed, M.F.A.
Harry Richards, B.A.
Mandy Robins, M.Ed.
Gerrienne Schuler, M.A.
Alia Shenk, B.A.
Sam Smith, B.S.
Samuel Takem-Baiyee, M.Phil.
Jack Vander Sluis, B.A.
Imani Vanner, B.A.
Billy Wheeler-Smith, B.A.
General Willis
Anjalon Wimbush, M.S.W.
SFC Daniel Yentsch, A.S.

Math Teacher
Public Safety Officer
Youth Advocate
Art Teacher
AHST Lead Teacher
English Teacher
Spanish Teacher
Attendance Secretary
JROTC Instructor
Science Teacher
Public Safety Officer
P. E. Teacher
English Teacher
Transition Teacher
School to College Advisor
ALTSJ Lead Teacher
Math Teacher
School Psychologist
Nurse
English Teacher
ADC Lead Teacher
Public Safety Officer
Head Counselor
English Teacher
English Teacher
Social Studies Teacher
Social Studies Teacher
Social Studies Teacher
Math Teacher
Public Safety Officer
Child Care Worker
Social Worker
JROTC Instructor

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.

COMMENCEMENT PHOTOGRAPHS

Your graduate is being professionally photographed by GradPix.

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

GR Montessori



Innovation Central

