



Lawrence Public Schools

District Announcement: Supreme Court Justice Visits Cordley Elementary

Monday, April 6, 2026

Supreme Court Justice Sotomayor Visits Cordley Elementary

On Monday, April 6, Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor visited Cordley Elementary, Lawrence Public Schools as a visiting author and reader for students in grades Kindergarten through 5th.

Classes had the opportunity to hear Justice Sotomayor read excerpts from her children's book, *Just Shine!*, and ask questions about the Justice's life and career.

Justice Sotomayor began each lesson with the question, *Who has been your favorite teacher?* The Justice shared that her own Mother, Celina, was her most impactful teacher, and she also shared powerful stories from her children's book, *Just Shine!* of her Mother's home, Puerto Rico, who joined the Women's Army Corp during World War II, and settled in New York City where Justice Sotomayor grew up.

Following the read aloud with 17 classes organized into three library groups, Justice Sotomayor connected with members of the Cordley staff for lunch, questions, and conversation, sharing her strong support of students, teachers and staff and of public education.

Cordley Elementary school principal, Rebecca Reaver, shared the following note with families on Monday afternoon:

Cordley Elementary – Monday, April 6: Principal Message to Families

Cordley Elementary School students and staff had the amazing honor of a visit from Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor today. The Justice was our surprise mystery author sharing her book, Just Shine!, with all students in the library. We are incredibly grateful and deeply inspired by Justice Sotomayor's work and our time with her today. She reminded us of our amazing ability to bring out the best in ourselves

and one another as we listen to understand and continue our mission to educate, advocate, elevate and celebrate!

Together We Rise!

Mrs. Reaver (Becky)

Sonia Sotomayor was born in the Bronx, New York. She earned a Bachelor of Arts from Princeton University and a Juris Doctorate from Yale Law School. She served as assistant district attorney in New York County, and then as a litigator at Pavia & Harcourt. In 1991, President George H. W. Bush nominated her to the U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York. In 1997, President William Jefferson Clinton nominated her to the US Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. President Barack Obama nominated her as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court on May 26, 2009, and she assumed this role August 8, 2009, becoming the first Latina to serve in this position.

She is the author of *My Beloved World*, *Turning Pages*, *The Beloved World of Sonia Sotomayor*, *Just Ask! Be Different, Be Brave, Be You*, and *Just Help! How to Build a Better World*.

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