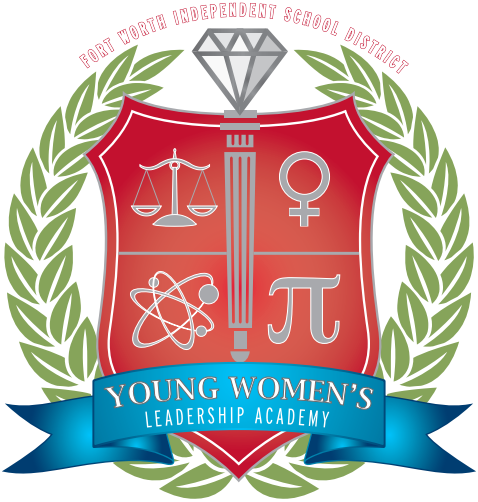
Class of 2026
Commencement Ceremony



Young Women's Leadership Academy

Wednesday, May 27, 2026 | 12 p.m.

Wilkerson-Greines Activity Center

FORT WORTH INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT





Spanish translation available via livestream.
Please wear headphones.

www.fwisd.org/graduation

Principal
Rediesha C. Allen

Assistant Principal
Laura Bennett

Executive Director of High Schools
Dr. Melissa Rincon

Lead Executive Director of High Schools
Dr. Chris Barksdale

North Regional Chief
Pablo Resendiz

Young Women's Leadership Academy is a Fort Worth ISD Gold Seal School of Choice.

Campus Mission

To develop the full potential of every girl by fostering an educational environment that encourages critical thinking, inspires student confidence, and nurtures the intellectual and social development necessary to graduate college, and become successful leaders in the global community.

Alma Mater

Young women's alma mater
we sing loud and clear,

Each of us comes as a daughter
mem'ries we hold dear,

Blue and red and white unite,
our colors we hold true,

These, our colors will unite us,
our pride will shine through

Sisterhood is what we offer,
leading every day,

Like a truss we lift each other,
never will we sway

Blue and red and white unite
are colors we hold true

These, our colors will unite us,
our pride will shine through.

YWLA Creed

I am a GEM of the YWLA

Pushing the boundaries of math, science, and technology.

I will be a servant leader who demonstrates a positive attitude.

Education is my ticket to success.

I am a future college graduate who will not succumb to mediocrity.

I will rise to exceptionality with my sisters.

We will have respect for ourselves, school, peers, and community.

The decisions we make today will affect the rest of our lives.

We never fail because we never give up.

We are extraordinary not because we say it, but because we work hard at it.

Our character will shine with unity and integrity.

We are the GEMS of the YWLA!

Message from the Superintendent

Dear Graduates, Families, and Esteemed Guests,

It is with great pride and deep admiration that I welcome you to this momentous occasion — our high school graduation ceremony. Today, we gather not only to celebrate the culmination of years of hard work, perseverance, and growth, but to honor the promise, resilience, and brilliance of each student seated before us.

Graduates, your journey has been anything but ordinary. You have navigated challenges, embraced opportunities, and demonstrated a commitment to your future that reflects the very best of our community. Along the way, you have been supported by dedicated educators, loving families, and peers who have walked beside you — each playing a vital role in shaping the individuals you are today.

During my brief time as your superintendent, I have had the privilege of witnessing firsthand the extraordinary talent and determination that exists within our school. You represent the future leaders, innovators, and change-makers who will go on to strengthen our communities and impact the world in meaningful ways. Whether your path leads you to higher education, the workforce, military service, or new adventures yet to be defined, know that you carry with you the foundation, values, and spirit of this district.

This milestone is not simply an ending — it is a beginning. A beginning filled with possibility, responsibility, and hope. I encourage each of you to remain curious, stay grounded in your purpose, and never lose sight of the power you have to make a difference.

To our families and staff: thank you. Your unwavering support, encouragement, and belief in our students have made this day possible. This achievement belongs to you as well.

Graduates, as you turn your tassels and step forward into the next chapter of your lives, do so with confidence, integrity, and pride. You have earned this moment.

Congratulations, Class of 2026. Your future is bright, and we are incredibly proud of you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Peter B. Licata

Superintendent
Dr. Peter B. Licata

Deputy Superintendent, Chief of Schools
Dr. Daniel Soliz

Chief of Staff
Dr. Louis M. Kushner

Fort Worth ISD Board of Education

President
Pete Geren

Vice President
Courtney Lewis

Secretary
Rosa Maria Berdeja

Board Members
Bobby Ahdieh
Luis A. Galindo
Laurie George
Frost Prioleau
Jay Stegall
Tennessee Walker

Commencement Program

Welcome Video from the Superintendent

Introduction . . . . . Sophia Ordaz
SENIOR CLASS OFFICER

Processional . . . . . Veanda Allen, YWLA Full Symphony Orchestra
"POMP AND CIRCUMSTANCE" BY EDWARD ELGAR

Presentation of Colors . . . Paul Laurence Dunbar High School Female Color Guard

National Anthem . . . . . YWLA Choir
"THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER" BY FRANCIS SCOTT KEY, ARR. REGINALD WRIGHT

Pledges of Allegiance . . . . . Tierra Stephens and Alejandra Munoz
SENIOR CLASS OFFICERS

YWLA Creed . . . . . .Amy Austin and Yuliana Velazquez
SENIOR CLASS OFFICERS

Welcome and Introduction of Platform Guests . . . . . .Laura Bennett
YWLA ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Greetings . . . . . Tennessee Walker
BOARD OF EDUCATION

Principal's Address . . . . . .Rediesha C. Allen
PRINCIPAL

Recognition of Special Graduates. . . . . Rickell Irvin
COLLEGE SUCCESS ADVISOR

Commemorative Speech . . . . . .Giulia Pearcy
SENIOR CLASS OFFICER

Farewell Tribute Song . . . . . Veanda Allen, YWLA Full Symphony Orchestra
"IT'S ABOUT TIME," ARR. MICHAEL STORY

Introduction of Salutatorian . . . . . .Dr. Melissa Rincon
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF HIGH SCHOOLS

Salutatorian Address

Introduction of Valedictorian . . . . . .Dr. Melissa Rincon
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF HIGH SCHOOLS

Valedictorian Address

Inspirational Song . . . . . Roslyn Woodard, YWLA Choir
"THIS IS WHY WE SING" BY DAVID SCOTT GANTZ

Special Remarks . . . . . Jeremy Cortez and Shoshana Thoma-Isgur
YOUNG WOMEN'S PREPARATORY NETWORK; FOUNDATION FOR THE YWLA

Presentation of Candidates for Graduation . . . . . .Rediesha C. Allen
ANNOUNCER: ERIKA SEVALL-TORRES, LEAD COUNSELOR

Conferring of Diplomas. . . . . Dr. Daniel Soliz
DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT, CHIEF OF SCHOOLS

Turning of the Tassel. . . . . .Giulia Pearcy
SENIOR CLASS PRESIDENT

Alma Mater . . . . . "YWLA Alma Mater" by Alisha Sharp, c/o 2017 YWLA Alumni

Recessional. . . . . .Veanda Allen, YWLA Full Symphony Orchestra
"POMP AND CIRCUMSTANCE" BY EDWARD ELGAR

View the Valedictorian, Salutatorian, Latin Honors graduates, and other honors not available by print time at **fwisd.org/HonorGrads**

Disclaimer: The student speakers were selected based on neutral criteria to deliver messages of the students' own choice. The content of each student speaker's message is the private expression of the individual student and does not reflect any position or expression of the FWISD, the Board of Education, the district's administration, employees of the district, or the views of any other graduate.

Candidates for Graduation

Sally Al Imari
Amy Lynn Austin
Ila Jane Avila
Megan Elise Bickham
Emilly Castillo
Julissa Castillo
Amanda Castro
Penelope Diamantopoulos
Kylah Minyon Evans
Liliana Fernandez
Kaylie Ailyn Garcia
Annika Christine Marie Gronberg
Aubrie Jade Guzman
Ehderwee Htoo
Natalie Ryan Hulsey
Janice Renelyn Jackson
Avril Lopez
Jessica Nicole Lorenzana
Wendy Eliana Maldonado
Sofia Marshall
Cristina Rosaria Muenho Matos
Fiona Clare McDonald
Shuntranae McNeal
Sofia Keirslyn Mendez
Alexia Alina Moreno
Alejandra Munoz
Maritza Ruby Ocegueda
Melanie Ocegueda
Sophia Ordaz
Zulema Ortega
Giulia Karinny Tito Pearcy
Adamari Ramirez
Ivett Maria Ramirez
Avni Ramrakshani
Emily Resendiz
Tania Yamilet Rocha
Camila Rodriguez
Lizbeth Solis Huanosta
Glori Danixa Solorzano
Tianna Joyce Stephens
Tierra Juliet Stephens
Ariana Vianey Torres
Citlaly Triana
Sihoiata Kimora Uhatafe
Yuliana Velazquez
Lorelei Ulrika Wadsworth

Senior Class Officers

PRESIDENT
Giulia Pearcy

VICE PRESIDENT
Alejandra Munoz

SECRETARY
Amy Austin

TREASURER
Tierra Stephens

PUBLIC RELATIONS
Sophia Ordaz

PROM CHAIR
Yuliana Velasquez

SENIOR CLASS SPONSORS
Katy Fatheree
Priscila Montoya
Angela Moore
Rose Ramirez

National Art Honor Society

Amy Austin
Ila Avila
Penelope Diamantopulous
Aubrie Guzman
Ehderwee Htoo
Jessica Lorenzana
Sofia Marshall
Fiona McDonald
Giulia Pearcy
Ivett Ramirez
Emily Resendiz
Camila Rodriguez
Lizbeth Solis Huanosta
Lorelei Wadsworth

Spanish National Honor Society

Ila Avila
Emilly Castillo
Annika Gronberg
Citlaly Triana

National Honor Society

PRESIDENT
Avni Ramrakshani

VICE PRESIDENT
Ila Avila

MEMBERS
Amy Austin
Megan Bickham
Emilly Castillo
Penelope Diamantopoulos
Kylah Evans
Liliana Fernandez
Kaylie Garcia
Annika Gronberg
Aubrie Guzman
Ehderwee Htoo
Janice Jackson
Avril Lopez
Jessica Lorenzana
Sofia Marshall
Cristina Matos
Fiona McDonald
Sofia Mendez
Alexia Moreno
Alejandra Munoz
Maritza Ocegueda
Sophia Ordaz
Giulia Pearcy
Ivett Ramirez
Lizbeth Solis Huanosta
Glori Solorzano
Tierra Stephens
Tianna Stephens
Ariana Torres
Citlaly Triana
Sihoiata Uhatafe
Yuliana Velazquez
Lorelei Wadsworth

Pathway Graduates

PLTW ENGINEERING

Amy Austin
Ila Avila
Amanda Castro
Kaylie Garcia
Annika Gronberg
Jessica Lorenzana
Christina Matos
Avni Ramrakshani
Citlaly Triana

ADVANCED ART

Amy Austin
Ila Avila
Penelope Diamantopulous
Aubrie Guzman
Ehderwee Htoo
Jessica Lorenzana
Sofia Marshall
Fiona McDonald
Giulia Pearcy
Ivett Ramirez
Emily Resendiz
Camila Rodriguez
Lizbeth Solis Huanosta
Lorelei Wadsworth

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Sally Al Imari
Megan Bickham
Emilly Castillo
Julissa Castillo
Kylah Evans
Liliana Fernandez
Aubrie Guzman
Ehderwee Htoo
Natalie Hulsey
Janice Jackson
Avril Lopez
Shuntranae McNeal
Sofia Mendez
Alexia Moreno
Alejandra Munoz
Maritza Ocegueda
Melanie Ocegueda
Sophia Ordaz
Zulema Ortega
Adamari Ramirez
Ivett Ramirez
Emily Resendiz
Tania Rocha
Camila Rodriguez
Lizbeth Solis Huanosta
Glori Solorzano
Tianna Stephens
Tierra Stephens
Ariana Torres
Sihoiata Uhatafe
Yuliana Velasquez
Lorelei Wadsworth

AP Capstone Diploma Candidates

RECIPIENTS

Ila Avila
Jessica Lorenzana
Fiona McDonald
Sophia Ordaz
Avni Ramrakshani
Tierra Stephens

CANDIDATE

Penelope Diamantopoulos

Athletics Recognitions

LILIANA FERNANDEZ

1st Team All District, Volleyball

TIANNA STEPHENS

2nd Team All District, Volleyball
1st Team All District, Basketball

Faculty & Staff

PRINCIPAL
Rediesha C. Allen

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL
Laura Bennett

INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF

Colby Allen
Emily Allen
Veanda Allen
Gaynell Bellizan
Latrivious Bruce
Dan Burrun
Chayla Caires
Jamie Calahan
Kathleen Cluchey
Kelsey de la Torre
Ann diPomazio
Katy Fatheree
Sergio Flores
Kay Ford
Nora Garcia
Shay Green
Emily Hearn
Candace Jackson
Samantha Keaton
T. Charlie Metcalf
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Sulma Sorto-Egelston
Scott Springs
Chris Sykes
Abdur-Rahman Taleb
Roslyn Woodard

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Mia Banks
John Billips
Maria Cardenas
Sarah De Valdenebro
Melody Ellison
Rickell Irvin
Hayley Jamerson
Nina Jones
Rocio Leon
Leonor Martinez
Tihisia Mathis
Denise Murillo
Elvira Murillo
Machell Paul
Karen Romero
Britely Ross
Dr. Loretta Sanders
Erika Sevall-Torres
Deon Sheppard Clark
Ofc. Krystal Simmons
Farris Smith
Dr. Akua Twumasi
Consuelo Vera

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Rosa Berdeja

GOVERNANCE CHAIR
Brandy Stolz

PROGRAM AND SERVICES CHAIR
Bianca Randall

SECRETARY
Deborah Ferguson

YWLA PRINCIPAL
Rediesha C. Allen

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Dr. Kisha McDonald
Dr. Melissa Rincon

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Cindy Ryan

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Jon DeLeo
Nicole Ellis
Yessenia Gallegos
Brooke Goggans
Lydia Guajardo
Meredith Knudsen
Matt McCraken
Stacey Morrisey
Regina Skidmore

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Lynn McBee

CHIEF ACADEMIC & ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICER
Berta Fogerson

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
Sherry Lambe

CHIEF DEVELOPMENT OFFICER
Cindy Ryan

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF TEACHER DEVELOPMENT & SCHOOL SUPPORT
Janna Burns

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF COLLEGE SUCCESS
Jeremy Cortez

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Brad Harlan

DIRECTOR OF INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY AND TEACHER SUPPORT
Rod Burns

DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI SERVICES
Mariza Garcia

DIRECTOR OF UNITY
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Kate Kettles

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Julie Wyatt

DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI SUPPORT
Alyssa Pizana

DIRECTOR OF GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING
Kris Waugh

MOODY SCHOLARS COLLEGE SUCCESS COORDINATOR
Maggie Wilson

INSTRUCTIONAL SPECIALIST
Corina Cruz