Class of 2026
Commencement Ceremony



Young Men's Leadership Academy

Thursday, May 28, 2026 | 3 p.m.

Wilkerson-Greines Activity Center

FORT WORTH INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT





Spanish translation available via livestream.
Please wear headphones.

www.fwisd.org/graduation

Principal
Jareem Williams

Assistant Principal
Diana Garcia-Allen

Executive Director of High Schools
Rian Townsend

Lead Executive Director of High Schools
Dr. Chris Barksdale

South Regional Chief
Isaac Williams

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

Campus Motto
Expected to Learn; Entitled to Achieve

Campus Creed
I am a scholar of the Paul Laurence Dunbar Young Men's Leadership Academy.

I will seek knowledge.

I will speak the truth.

I am destined for success in everything I do.

The decisions I make today
will affect my tomorrow.

I am accountable to myself, my brothers,
my family, and my community.

I am a scholar of the Paul Laurence Dunbar Young Men's Leadership Academy.

We Are Our Brothers' Keepers!

Campus Mission
The mission of the Paul Laurence Dunbar Young Men's Leadership Academy is to cultivate and empower all young men through Perseverance, Resilience, Integrity, Discipline, and Excellence by developing academic scholars for generations to come.

Brief History of YMLA
In the winter of 2009, a small group of Fort Worth ISD administrators and board members visited several single gender schools in the New York City public school district. Their mission was to gain insight about the successes and challenges of such schools and how they could be utilized in the Fort Worth ISD. After a series of public meetings, trustees voted to establish Young Men's Leadership Academy in the fall of 2012.

The Paul Laurence Dunbar Young Men's Leadership Academy (YMLA), the district's first single-gender school for boys, was launched with 6th and 7th grade students. YMLA's goal is to provide college preparatory education for young men to achieve their promise as students, as family members, and as engaged citizens.

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

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Commencement Program

Welcome Video from the Superintendent

Processional . . . . . "Pomp and Circumstance" by Edward Elgar

Presentation of Colors . . . . . Young Men's Leadership Academy JROTC

National Anthem . . . . . "The Star-Spangled Banner" by Francis Scott Key

Pledges of Allegiance . . . . . Scholars Toddryck Smith-Lewis & Bryan Huynh

Welcome. . . . . Scholar Salvador Ibarra Roman
CLASS OF 2026 TREASURER

Introduction of Platform Guests . . . . . Scholar Judah Cox

Greetings . . . . . Laurie George
BOARD OF EDUCATION

Principal's Address . . . . . Jareem Williams
PRINCIPAL

Tribute to Parents . . . . . Scholars Christopher L. Smith & Joseph Romero

Tribute to Dream Team . . . . . Scholars Micah Carroll & Aaron Klein

YMLA History and Mission . . . . . Scholar Alan Sanchez
CLASS OF 2026 SECRETARY

Special Presentation . . . . . Scholars Mustafa Hasan & Cameron Long

Recognition of Honor Groups. . . . . Rose Jones
HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR

Recognition of Scholarship Awards . . . . . Erwin Santiago
PROGRAM OF CHOICE COORDINATOR

Video Presentation. . . . . Scholar Brayden Rischer

Introduction of Salutatorian . . . . . Diana Garcia-Allen
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Salutatorian Address

Introduction of Valedictorian . . . . . Rian Townsend
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF HIGH SCHOOLS

Valedictorian Address

Presentation of Candidates . . . . . Jareem Williams
ANNOUNCER: CHRISTOPHER E. SMITH, TECHNOLOGY ADMINISTRATOR

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

Turning of the Tassel and YMLA Creed . . . . . Scholar Dashaun Raymond
CLASS OF 2026 PRESIDENT

Recessional. . . . . "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

Giovanni Uriel Aranda

Carlos Junior Ayala

James Willis Bell III

Ayan Ahmad Butt

Micah Tyler Carroll

Anthony Edward Carter

Hugo Emiliano Cisneros Torres

Ashton Mekyle Coffee

Jeremiah Daniel Cooks

Judah James Cox

Kobin Collier Fitzgerald

Jimmy Wayne Glenn

Pablo Guzman Rojas

Kenyon James Harris

David Maurice Harvey

Mustafa Sufian Hasan

Matthew Hernandez

Bryan Dinh Huynh

Salvador Jeremias Ibarra Roman

James Kashindi

Ryan David King

Aaron Troy Klein

Kenny Medary Kumbuka

Judah Sharrone Leonard

Cameron Michael Long

David Dilan Lopez

Brandon Martinez

Emmanuel Matsanga

Morgan Nicholas Meredith Gonzalez

Quinton LaDarrell Phillips II

Dashaun D'Wayne Raymond

Brayden Isaac Rischer

Christian Roberto Rodriguez Rivas

Joseph Romero

Artis McKinley Royal II

Jose Alberto Ruiz Jr.

Alan Uriel Sanchez

Oscar Sanchez

Christopher Langston Smith

Trey Anthony Smith

Toddryck Smith-Lewis

Byron David Tate Jr.

Hau Khan Min Thang

Jermaine Lyndon Thigpen Jr.

Josiah Jarvis Thomas

Tomas Tovar

Seydou Wane

Immanuel Amir Woodard

Tyreus Jayline Wright

Senior Class Officers

PRESIDENT
Dashaun Raymond

VICE PRESIDENT
Hau Thang

SECRETARY
Alan Sanchez

TREASURER
Salvador Ibarra Roman

SENIOR CLASS SPONSORS
Cynthia Boone
William Parker
Melissa Schulman
Angel Smith

CLASS MOTTO
"Brothers for Life, No Matter the Price"

National Honor Society

PRESIDENT
Ayan Butt

VICE PRESIDENT
Micah Carroll

SECRETARY
Judah Cox

SPONSORS
Alexander Addison
William Parker
Erwin Santiago
Angel Smith

MEMBERS
Ayan Butt
Micah Carroll
Hugo Cisneros
Judah Cox
Pablo Guzman
Bryan Huynh
Salvador Ibarra
James Kashindi
Emmanuel Matsanga
Quinton Phillips II
Dashaun Raymond
Jose Ruiz Jr.
Oscar Sanchez
Alan Sanchez
Hau Thang

Superintendent's Scholars

James Bell III
Ayan Butt
Micah Carroll
Anthony Carter
Hugo Cisneros Torres
Ashton Coffee
Jeremiah Cooks
Judah Cox
Kenyon Harris
Matthew Hernandez
Bryan Huynh
Salvador Ibarra Roman
James Kashindi
Aaron Klein
Cameron Michael Long
Brandon Martinez
Emmanuel Matsanga
Morgan Meredith Gonzalez
Quinton Phillips II
Dashaun Raymond
Brayden Rischer
Christian Rodriguez Rivas
Joseph Romero
Jose Ruiz Jr.
Alan Sanchez
Oscar Sanchez
Christopher Smith
Trey Smith
Toddryck Smith-Lewis
Hau Thang
Jermaine Thigpen Jr.
Josiah Thomas
Tomas Tovar
Seydou Wane
Tyreus Wright

TCU Community Scholar

Hau Thang

AVID

Christopher L. Smith

Cords and Stoles

CORDS

Summa Cum Laude . . . . . Maize Gold
Magna Cum Laude . . . . . Silver
Cum Laude . . . . . White
Student Council . . . . . Green
Band . . . . . Rose
ROTC . . . . . Red, White, and Blue
UT OnRamps . . . . . Orange and Silver
Internships . . . . . Silver and Blue
Journalism . . . . . Red
AVID . . . . . Blue and Gold
Art Honor Society . . . . . Multicolor
Dual Credit . . . . . Navy Blue
CCMR . . . . . Gold

STOLES

Superintendent Scholars
Mayor's Acheivement

MEDALS

AVID

YMLA Community Advisory Board

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Charlie Powell
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Kris Scott
Ty Stimpson
Dr. Carlos Walker
Dr. Jamal Williams
Rev. Patrick Winfield

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Jareem Williams

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL
Diana Garcia-Allen

HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR
Rose Jones

MIDDLE SCHOOL COUNSELOR
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TECHNOLOGY ADMINISTRATOR
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POSTSECONDARY SPECIALIST
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Malinee Carnegie
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Ryan Flores
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