Class of 2026
Commencement Ceremony



Jo Kelly School

Monday, June 1, 2026 | 1 p.m.

Jo Kelly School Gym

FORT WORTH INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

JO KELLY SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION AND OFFICE STAFF

Principal
Matrail Rogers

Secretary
Luz Ontiveros

Data Clerk
Aida De La Cruz

School Counselor
Rachel Case

FORT WORTH ISD

Central Regional Chief
Dr. Kyndra Tyler

Deputy Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction
Mohammed Choudhury

Executive Director of Elementary Schools
Dr. Guadalupe Cortez

Executive Director of Specialized Learning
Audrey Thomas

Director of Special Education, Academics and Instructional Programs
Amelia McMillen

Special Education Coordinator
Andrew Spencer

Classroom Teachers
Gayla Baldacci
Amelia Blanchette
Lamia Bolton
Bob Chochola
Morgan Dromgoole
Kimberly Ellis
Mary Hannah
Treasett Horner-Davis
Kathedral Johnson
Tiffany Mann-Nolte
Sherri Merchant
Jamie Wiksten

Teacher Assistants and auxiliary staff
Tracy Beams
Norma Herrera
Robyn Irizarry
Anai Luna
Nekeidrka Stephen
Vanessa Swanson

Jennifer Giegdolt, *Music Teacher*
Rebecca Brock, *Campus Monitor*
Claudia Cortez, *Head Custodian*
Martha Acosta, *Custodian*
Kimmie Miller, *Custodian*
Maria Gebhart, *Cafeteria Lead*

Nursing Staff
Jennifer Gist
Belinda Johnson
Beronica Vera
Rita White

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 . . . . . Fatima Puente

Presentation of Colors . . . . . Western Hills High School JROTC

Pledge of Allegiance . . . . . Hector Romero

Pledge to the Texas Flag . . . . . William Cobb

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

Welcome and Introduction of Platform Guests . . . . . Matrail Rogers
PRINCIPAL

Greetings . . . . . Pete Geren
PRESIDENT, BOARD OF EDUCATION

Superintendent's Address . . . . . Dr. Peter B. Licata
SUPERINTENDENT

Executive Director's Remarks . . . . . Dr. Guadalupe Cortez
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Teacher Expressions . . . . . Bob Chochola, Kimberly Ellis, Martha Johnson, and Jamie Wiksten

Video Presentations

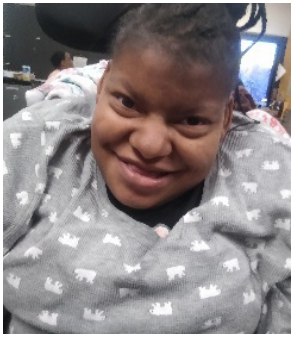
Presentation of Graduate Diplomas . . . . . Matrail Rogers
PRINCIPAL

Turning of the Tassel . . . . . Dr. Peter B. Licata
SUPERINTENDENT

Recessional Song . . . . . "Time of Your Life" by Green Day

Please join us for a reception immediately following the ceremony!

Class of 2026 Graduates



Aaniyah "Nana" Anderson

Aaniyah "NaNa" Anderson started at Jo Kelly School in 2013 and would have graduated this year. Devastatingly, she passed away in her sleep on Valentine's Day of 2026 at the age of 21. She had the most expressive face and sweetest disposition. She had a huge smile which brought out dimples high on her cheeks and a great giggle. She had steady and deliberate movements and was dubbed the school masseuse as she would reach to give the adults sitting next to her the best "massages." She would hold their hand or rub their arm or back all with her gentle touch. She had such a fun personality and enjoyed interacting with the adults in her life.

Aaniyah has left an indelible impression on Jo Kelly School and everyone who loved her. She is and will be dearly missed.



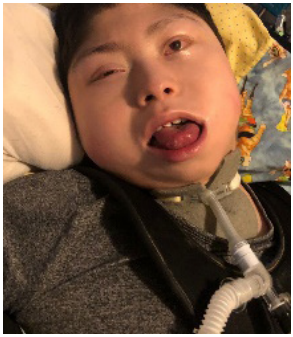
Fatima Puente Arevalo

Fatima has been a student at Jo Kelly School since 2010. Her departure this year will leave a void that cannot be filled. She can be described as lively, animated, spirited, engaging, energetic, playful, and full of life. She knows what she wants - and what she doesn't want - and is confident enough to tell it like it is either way. Her bubbly personality has been an inspiration to staff for a very long time.

Fatima's true strength is in her ability to communicate. With a voice that at times literally echoes through the halls of Jo Kelly, "Fati" will greet friends and visitors alike with a resounding "hi," boldly offering a greeting, and then send them on their way with a happy "goodbye" as they depart.

Her favorite phrase is "I love you" and one thing is for certain: we love her too. And we will miss her.

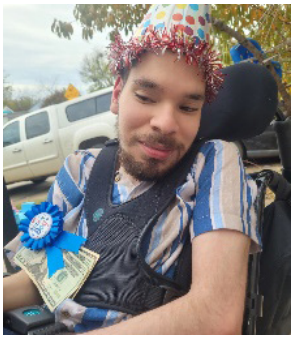
Class of 2026 Graduates



Angela Mosqueda

Angela Mosqueda came to Jo Kelly School at the age of five. There she worked very hard on her goals and objectives. You could tell how much she enjoyed school by the way she raised her hands as she was pushed down the hallway. She loved participating in school activities.

In 2016 Angela became very sick and had to complete her education with Homebound. Even with Angela's numerous health problems, she continues to work hard on her goals and objectives. Angela continues to show remarkable strength as she faces life's challenges day by day.



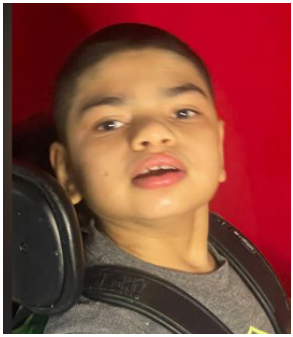
Hector Armando Romero

Hector's love for music is well-documented on the Jo Kelly campus. He swings to old school jazz, like Miles Davis and John Coltrane, and he can also groove to a solid rock'n'roll back beat when the spirit moves him. He listens intently to brass and woodwinds, but his real gift lies in playing and swaying with his own beat on a drum or percussion instrument.

Hector's personality says "easy going" all day long, and he is a joy to be around. His fabulous sense of humor has a way of spreading happiness everywhere he goes.

Hector has been an icon at Jo Kelly for eight years and he certainly has earned the nickname "Handsome Hector" with his great smile and infectious laugh. Jo Kelly is better for having served Hector and his family. We will deeply miss him.

Class of 2026 Graduates



Nelson David Barrio Velasquez

Nelson has been a delight to work with since he joined us in 2022. He is well-known and well-beloved by all staff at Jo Kelly School. Nelson enjoys good music, good food, and the company of loved ones, classmates, and his teachers Ms. Kim and Ms. Norma.

He has grown and progressed well to the best of his abilities. He has a good sense of humor, loves to laugh, and loves playing simple games of one-on-one engagement with an adult whom he is familiar with, especially Peek-A-BOO! He composes music with hand claps, shaking a maraca, or patting his desk or drum.

He will be missed by all, especially Ms. Kim and Ms. Norma. We at Jo Kelly School wish him as well as he endeavors on his future journey in life. May God bless you, Nelson. We love you.

Congratulations, Stars!

STARS

Campus Mission

Jo Kelly School educates medically fragile students with severe and profound disabilities, aged three to twenty-two.

Our mission is to provide for the needs and education of our students that they may develop to their fullest potential. This involves enabling them to communicate with intent, to act and interact with their environment, and to move with purpose.

In partnership, the parents, staff and community support one another to move each student from being a passive to an interactive member of their community and included to the greatest degree possible.

Our mission is to provide each student with a classroom environment that is individually tailored to assist them in gaining access to their best quality of life once they leave Jo Kelly.

Campus Vision

Jo Kelly School, a specialized campus, will educate students to become active members within the community. We will meet their needs by assisting them to communicate with intent, interact with the environment and move with purpose in order to maximize their fullest potential.

Campus Values

At Jo Kelly we SHOW COMPASSION.

At Jo Kelly we WORK TOGETHER.

At Jo Kelly we LOOK FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW.

At Jo Kelly we NURTURE RELATIONSHIPS.