



COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

Cary Academy
Cary, North Carolina

3:00 p.m.
Friday, May 22, 2026
Center for Math and Science



*Cary Academy is
a learning community
committed to discovery,
innovation, collaboration,
and excellence.*

COMMENCEMENT

*Processional <i>Pomp and Circumstance</i> Sir Edward Elgar/Merle Isaac	Led by Holden Lim Student Council President-Elect
*Pledge of Allegiance	Sarah Chen Student Council Vice President
Welcome	Dr. Michael Ehrhardt Head of School
Special Thank You	Daphne DiFrancesco
Class Speakers	Yul Choi Henry Lim
Founders' Award	Dr. Donna Eason Head of Upper School
Introduction of Speaker	Dr. Trude Bate Chair, Cary Academy Board of Directors
Keynote Address	Trey Murphy III, '18 Forward, New Orleans Pelicans
Conferring of Diplomas	Dr. Trude Bate Dr. Donna Eason Dr. Michael Ehrhardt
Closing Remarks	Dr. Michael Ehrhardt
*Recessional <i>Stars and Stripes Forever</i> John Philip Sousa	
*Audience will stand	

CARY ACADEMY

CLASS OF 2026

Conrad Moses Akulian
Guilherme Simão Arnaut
Saachin Arora
Sidney Marie Barber
Noah Jaeyoung Becker
Jessica Noel Bedford
Sofia Alexandra Bohorquez
Jackson Paul Boucher
Hudson Tzu-Ming Chang
Daniel Yuhao Chen
Max Chen
Ryan Joseph Chen
Sarah Yanru Chen
William Li Chen
Yul Choi
Isabella Florence Corral
Annalise Candace DeMatteis
Alister John Devins
Daphne Lucia DiFrancesco
Spencer David Dill
Aidan William Dunsmoor
Mason Liu Dupre
Zuleika Abenya Ejomi Ekangaki
Tova Natalia Feldman
Fiona Sonya Fitzsimons
Maren Emily Fleshman
Kavi Kaul Gibson
Harper Grace Gildener
Maya Nobu Giralt
Sadie Claire Goulding

Bailey Elizabeth Greczyn
Catharine Mae Gredvig
Naomi Reese Hammer
Lucinda Leigh Hankins
Jonah McBrayer Hanson
Alaina Rae Jacobson
Seoeun Jhoung
Hala Kaur Johal
Lana Addison Joyce
Raya R. Jung
Oliver Vijay Karra
Caroline Grace Keefe
Catherine Elizabeth Kendall
Ava Kerr Khoudary
Gavin Sebastian Koo
Ella Madeline Kovacs
Ellen Heng-Yao Lan
Augustus Cole Lavalette
Alison Lee
Clare Lee
Mirella Jane Leerberg
Keira Marie Leslie
Allen Lu Li
Abigail Jeune Lierman
Henry Cheng-Xian Yoon Lim
Chloe Zhichen Lin
Wells Yoting Lin
Linus Theodore Mariano Lindsey
Alex Haopeng Liu
Patrick Liu
Aanya Lunani

Kush Andrew Lutz
Rehan Mahmood
Akash Venkatasubra Mani
Braden Robert Marchand
Caden Lee Martin
Melissa Isabelle Masere
Cecilia Matronola
Callie Elena McCarron
Danica Laura McCarron
Christopher Jack McHenry
NeVaeh Kimya-LaNeyce McNair
Grant Dobson Messerly
Finn Garland Miller
Piper Noel Miller
Madison Price Moore
Dhruv Jaiwant Mulik
Ayden Mulandi Musau
Anjali Narahari
Misha Noor Nasim
Kai Akwera Oduor
Lauren Kathleen Parker
Moriah Miriam Parks
Kajal Vaibhav Parmar
Bharghav Parvathaneni
Serena Keya Patel
Sohum Amit Patel
Jordyn Nyala Phillips
Sienna Natividad Lewellen Pollock
Noah Thomas Prince
Luna Pulido
Elizabeth Rayas

CARY ACADEMY

CLASS OF 2026

William Seth Ross II
Aidan Michael Rousseau
Keira Serina Sabapathypillai
Yusef Said
Bemnet Samson
Isabella Marie Sillers
Zachary Owen Staffhorst
Luke Harman Stallings
Shrey Surana
Oliver Liam Swartz
Rhianna Esha Thomas
Delaney Davis Thompson
Chimdindu Leonard Uchendu
Etienne Charles Van Tonder
Keira Abril Vandewouw
Aviva Yerong Wang
Cameron Robert Weber
Katherine Elizabeth Wiater
Katherine Louise Wiebe
McCoy Zachary Williams
Brianna Hao Xin
Joyce Junzi Xu
Rebecca Ruyi Yao
Liliana Zichu Yi
Christian Yonas Daniel
Kenna Jiayue Zhang
Steve Zhong
Rhea Zhou
Lily Yulan Zhu

COLLEGE DECISIONS

CLASS OF 2026

Congratulations to the Class of 2026 as you embark on your college careers at 58 different colleges in 20 states, and the District of Columbia.

Appalachian State University
Bates College
Boston University
Brown University
Bucknell University
Carnegie Mellon University
Case Western Reserve University
Columbia University
Cornell University
Dartmouth College
Davidson College
Denison University
Duke University
Elon University
Emory University
George Washington University
Georgetown University
Georgia Institute of Technology
Hamilton College
Harvard University
Haverford College
Howard University
Indiana University (Bloomington)
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
New York University
North Carolina Central University
North Carolina State University
Northeastern University
Oberlin College

COLLEGE DECISIONS

CLASS OF 2026

Occidental College
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rhode Island School of Design
Rice University
Santa Clara University
Springfield College
Stanford University
Syracuse University
The University of Alabama
Tulane University of Louisiana
United States Military Academy at West Point
University of California (Berkeley)
University of California (Davis)
University of California (Santa Barbara)
University of California (Santa Cruz)
University of Chicago
University of Miami
University of Michigan
University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill)
University of North Carolina at Charlotte
University of North Carolina Wilmington
University of Pennsylvania
University of Virginia
Vanderbilt University
Wake Forest University
Washington University in St. Louis
Wellesley College
William & Mary
Williams College

PAST COMMENCEMENT KEYNOTES

2000	Dr. Marye Anne Fox	Chancellor, North Carolina State University
2001	The Honorable James B. Hunt	Governor of North Carolina
2002	Dr. Nannerl O. Keohane	President, Duke University
2003	Dr. Lee Stiff	Professor of Mathematics, North Carolina State University
2004	Bill Irwin	Motivational Speaker
2005	Doug Marlette	Pulitzer Prize-Winning Cartoonist
2006	Anson Dorrance	Head Coach, Women's Soccer University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
2007	Bill Nye	"The Science Guy"
2008	Dr. James H. Johnson	William Rand Kenan, Jr. Distinguished Professor of Management University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
2009	Dr. Benjamin Dunlap	President, Wofford College
2010	Dr. Holden Thorp	Chancellor, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
2011	Henry H. Shelton	General (Ret.) U.S. Army

PAST COMMENCEMENT KEYNOTES

2012	Cynthia G. Marshall	President, AT&T North Carolina
2013	Nina Jacobson	Film Producer, Color Force
2014	Dr. Carol Folt	Chancellor, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
2015	Christopher J. Cassidy	Captain, U.S. Navy; NASA Astronaut
2016	Anita R. Brown-Graham	Director, Institute for Emerging Issues North Carolina State University
2017	Dr. James H. Goodnight	Founder, Board of Directors, CEO of SAS
2018	Lianne M. Gonsalves ('06)	Technical Officer, World Health Organization (WHO)
2019	Holly May ('05)	Head of People and Operations, Datavant
2020	Robert Ingram	General Partner, Hatteras Venture Partners
2021	Sandra Gutierrez	Author and Food Historian
2022	Kip Kroeger	Film Producer
2023	Cindy Laughlin	Former Middle School Senior Administrative Assistant
2024	Uzma Rawn ('02)	SVP, Global Corporate Partnerships, Major League Baseball
2025	Robin Follet	Head of Upper School at the Wildwood School, Former Head of Cary Academy Upper School

CORD DESIGNATIONS

Cords denote personally-significant aspects of graduates' experiences.

Graduates were limited to 2 cords.

Athletics — royal blue and gold

Service — light blue

Affinity Groups — red

Arts — mauve

STEM — dark green

Humanities — orange

National Honor Society — gold

7-year Cary Academy Student — white

World Language/World Cultures — purple

Environmental Awareness/Wilderness Leadership — emerald green

JUNIOR MARSHALS

Noha Bezuayehu

Zachary Jones

Holden Lim

Ananya Ravulapati

Charlotte Ro

Saron Surafeal

Lorelai Tsang

Hogan Wendt

Sunny Zhao



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CARY ACADEMY

1500 N. Harrison Ave. | Cary, NC 27513 | caryacademy.org