



The
CLASS *of*
2026
You **DID IT!**

*Jackson County Public Schools
is proud to celebrate the*

Class of 2026!



Ayers

This year, there are 276 graduates across our district and I am pleased to celebrate their success. The seniors walking across the stage this week are a unique group that I have had the honor of being the superintendent since their 8th grade year. I know these seniors from a variety of lenses – the classroom, on a stage performing, their athletic participation, Career and Technical Education programs and volunteering. They have formed positive and caring relationships with teachers, staff and peers that will likely last a lifetime.

The Class of 2026 has seniors joining our military to selflessly serve their country. Some will enter the workforce, finding professions they discovered while taking CTE classes offered by JCPS. Other seniors are off to trade schools, universities and community colleges to further their education. Collectively, these seniors have been awarded more than \$2.3 million in scholarship funds. What an extraordinary accomplishment!

These soon-to-be graduates show excitement, focus, eagerness, joy and resilience like no other. I am astonished at what they have achieved and hope they always feel a draw to come home to Jackson County and share their success and talents. As the seniors step into a future full of possibilities, I encourage them to carry the lessons, friendships and memories with pleasure, and never stop growing and learning. There is nothing these seniors cannot accomplish when each one funnels their skills, talents and positive attitude toward a goal.

Dr. Dana L. Ayers
Superintendent, Jackson County Public Schools



*Congratulations to the
JCPS Class of 2026!*



Smoky Mountain High School Graduation 2026 Commencement

at 7 p.m.
Wednesday, May 20,
Liston B. Ramsey
Regional Activity Center

PROCESSIONAL

“Pomp and Circumstance” arr. by Edward Elgar

PRESENTATION OF COLORS

SMHS JROTC Color Guard

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Senior Members of the Choir Classes

WELCOME & MOMENT OF REFLECTION

Dr. Dana L. Ayers, Superintendent

SENIOR CLASS PRESIDENT ADDRESS

Brooklyn Carroll, Senior Class President

STUDENT BODY VICE PRESIDENT ADDRESS

Giselle Rodriguez, Student Body Vice President

STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT ADDRESS

Isabelle Joiner, Student Body President

PRESENTATION OF THE SENIOR GIFT

James Collins, Senior Class Representative

PRESENTATION OF 2025 MOST INFLUENTIAL TEACHER

Mr. Joseph Robinson Jr., Principal

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER

Jaanvi Patel, Senior Class Representatives

GUEST SPEAKER

Anna Wilke, SMHS English Teacher

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES

Senior Homeroom Teachers

AWARDING OF DIPLOMAS

Mr. Joseph Robinson Jr., Principal; Dr. Dana L. Ayers, Superintendent

ALMA MATER

Senior Members of the Choir Classes

DECLARATION OF GRADUATES

Mr. Joseph Robinson Jr., Principal

TOSSING OF THE MORTARBOARDS

Senior Class

RECESSIONAL

“Pomp and Circumstance” arr. by Edward Elgar

Josias Yochua Acevedo-Rivera
Emily Lizzeth Aguilera-Cabrera
Berkley Addison Albritton
Kalyn Dee Allen
Keegan Eric Allen
Mirna Jazmin Ambrocio Lorenzo
Carmen Alicia Anderson
Dalton Wade Anderson
William Antonio-Santiago
Alexandra Aquino Lopez
Luz Anabel Arroliga Hernandez
Cara Elizabeth Bailey
Briana Yazmin Balderas Ontiveros
William Nicholas Blake Banfield
Ethan Thomas Bankston
Steven Austin Barker
Cornelius Jay Bell
Macayla Brooke Bell
Jackson Averl Bernstein
Andre Cole Billie
John Riley Blanton
Makayla Lynn Borowicz
Ivy Collette Bourne
Devlin Lane Bright
Gracie Rayne Brooks
Benjamin Robert Brown
Caitrin Elizabeth Brown
Eli Raymond Bryson
Anna Louise Buenting
Emma Lea Burnes
Carolina Jean Butcher
MaryJo Norrine Cantrell
Katherine Sequoia Carpenter
Abigail Jean Carr
Brooklyn Mercedes Carroll
Bella Rosa Clench
Adeline Ruth Coan
Micheal Tyler Coggins
James Watson Collins
Alexis Jovany Cruz Ramos
Jonathan Cruz Trejo
Thomas Winfred Custer
Laylan Renee Danner
Kylee Grace Davis
Anthony Nicholas De Alto
Mihin Nethsara De Silva
Thomas Dier Diaz Leis
Heidi Rose Dinkelmeyer
Ernesto Jesus Dominguez
Mallorie Kay Donley
Ivanna Julieth Duron Cano
Cordell Gage Elders
Adrianna Nicole Ellenburg
Kieaira Kay Ensley
Jasson David Escoto-Aguilar
Christopher Exiga Cuevas
Jordan Isaiah Farmer
Kaden Brooks Fish
Abigail Karen Fisher
Spencer West Fitzgerald
Mason Andrew Forbis
Austin Robert Frady

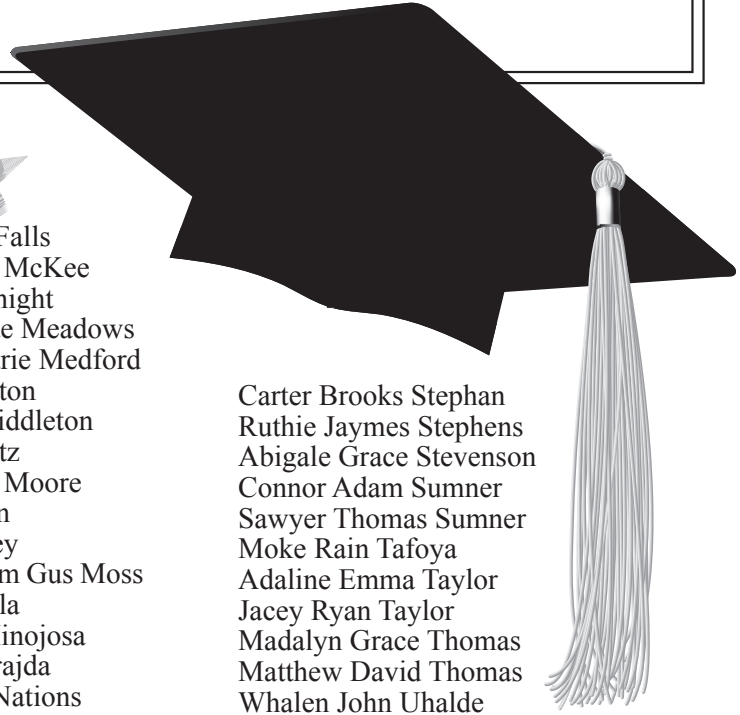
Summer LeighLynn Frady
Catherine Alphabelle Frye
Riley Michelle Frye
Fatima Fuentes
Gabrielle Rose Fulk
Dorian Michael Gagnon
Gracie Jo Gilmer
Ashley Marie Gonzalez
Carlos Alexander Gonzalez Fuentes
Coleman Reece Goodman
Leland Anthony Graves
Emily Grace Green
Ayden Ryan Griffin
Ayslee McKenna Griffin
Dawson Lane Gunter
Maxwell Israel Gutierrez Largaespada
Gracen Chase Hansen
Victoria Anahi Haro Villagomez
Roleena Nicole Hart
Emma Chloe Helsing
Kaitlyn Rose Helt
Allston Michael Henry
Jaylen Brooke Henry
Samuel Hernandez
Benjamin Hernandez-Solis
Derek Patrick Hinkle
Shaylee Faith Hooper
Thomas Wesley Howard
Zakary Thomas Mitchell Hubbard
Calvin Alexander Huffman
Larry Edward Hughes
Gracie-lee Queen Irons
Jose Luis Jimenez-Vasquez
Cortney Lee Johnson
Laila Grace Johnson
Isabelle Christeen Joiner
Levi Gavin Jones
Julian Jesse Kennedy
Athan Blaze Kerr
Zoe Aurora Kettler
Caydem David Kibel
Kira Sumalee Kompathoum
Ian Foster Kotila
Johnathan Eusebio Labastida
Jaime Rebecca Lambert
Heyley Gail Ledford
Tiffany Un-Tse Lin
Omar Rey Lopez
Kamaurie Jah'nai Lovely-Hall
Landon Andrew Mantz
Abbey Elizabeth Marchman
Hank Edward Trull Martin
Cristofer Alex Martinez
Sarah Renee Martinez
Angie Martinez Yanez
Cheyene Leigh Mathis
Morgan Paige Mathis
Brianna Dosa May
Maximus Jerison McAlister
Annabelle Sue McCord
Adrienne Elizabeth McCoy
Liam Padraic McElroy

Colten Daniel McFalls
Savannah Frances McKee
Noah Vance McKnight
Brianna Marie Mae Meadows
Cadance Anna Marie Medford
Gabby Marae Melton
Braydon James Middleton
Leah Journey Mintz
Andrew Sheppard Moore
Roland Jay Morton
Evan James Mosley
Alexzander William Gus Moss
Alex Joseph Motola
Alondra Munoz-Hinojosa
Whitney Mae Murajda
Addyson Leeann Nations
Hayden Steele Nelson
Ali Klaire Nicholson
Lydia Grace Nickles
Michael Anthony Norman
Edith Ariani Ortiz-Martinez
Levi Oviedo
Paige Emma Owen
Bailey Anne Parker
Kaylie Ava Parris
Jacob Lee Parton
Jaanvi Indravadan Patel
William Michael Patterson
Misael Perez-Valencia
Trace Dean Phillips
Raven Isadora Piper
Merritt Lane Plemmons
Emma Rae Pollack
Zachery Cole Polson
Custer Marcus Prenger
Rylee Anne Queen
Jake Ryan Ramey
Kevin Ramirez
Miguel Lopez Ramirez
Vanessa Ramirez
Adela Sarai Ramirez-Cruz
Daniel Flenniken Reeves
Emory John Rhoads
William Cade Rice
Leslie Marilyn Richards
Rebekah Taylor Robertson
Giselle Rodriguez
Khloe Jane Rodriguez
Lea Marie Rogers
Hector De Jesus Rojas Taleno
Gabriela Mary Roman-Bruno
Aljoshia Rusi
Ariana Sofia Santana Santiago
Alana Elizabeth Santy
Chelsye Nikole Saylor
Xyla Rose Seagle
Izayah Pierce Shelton
Ella Jean Small
Zoey Danielle Smith
Steven Atticus Smithdeal
Francisco Jesus Sobrevilla
Gregory Eden Sobrevilla

Carter Brooks Stephan
Ruthie Jaymes Stephens
Abigale Grace Stevenson
Connor Adam Sumner
Sawyer Thomas Sumner
Moke Rain Tafoya
Adaline Emma Taylor
Jacey Ryan Taylor
Madalyn Grace Thomas
Matthew David Thomas
Whalen John Uhalde
Angely Gabriela Ulloa
Jacob David Vandegrift
KyLee Madison Vargas
Noah Steven Vaughn
Caiden Dean Vick
Joshua Alan Vinyard
Aaliyah Kristin Voss
Hannah Marie Vreeland
Sienna Elle Wahnetah
Kaylee Jade Waldroup
Eric Ross Wallen
Josyah James Ward
Logan Grant Wildcatt
Kavan Lee Wilson
Gabriel Elijah Wolfe
Cayden Phillip Wood
Melaina Jade Worrell
Rebecca Nicole Zwisle

**SMHS 2026
Junior Marshals**

Tori Ayala
Hannah Bishop
Atalie Blythe
Spencer Bullock
Mary Bumgarner
Maya Campbell
Macy Craft
Sawyer Gribble
Lillyanna Hall
Peyton Hall
Everleigh Kemp
Brayden Logan
Julia Macaulay
Noah Menickelli
Emma Miller
Emily Moses
Braelyn Mulligan
Ace Prenger
Molly Romaniszyn
Mary Rosario
Callie Winchester



Jackson Community School

**Wednesday, May 20, 2026,
at 5:30 p.m.
Scotts Creek School Auditorium**



The processional "Pomp and Circumstance" arranged by Edward Elgar will be followed by the Star Spangled Banner and the Pledge of Allegiance performed by David Dalton. The Invocation will be by Jazmyn Anguiano. Principal Holly Whisnant will deliver the Welcome. Special Remarks will be made by Erin Alvarado and Evelyn Jarquin. The Presentation of Candidates will be delivered by Principal Holly Whisnant. Reading of names will be by Special Guest Josh Watson. The Declaration of Graduates will be performed by Principal Holly Whisnant. The recessional "Pomp and Circumstance" arranged by Edward Elgar will complete the ceremony.

Jayden Lee Alvarez
Jazmyn Hope Anguiano
Erin Guadalupe Alvarado
Linzy Yazmin Cedillo
Silvia Imanda Hernandez
Evelynn JoAnna Jarquin
Janet Juárez-Torres

Brayden Boyd Lambert
Mikah Jahim Lambert
Maev Seely Loudon
Carmelo Chadee Maxwell
Austin Wayne Pullen
Michael Andres Quintero
Aidan Dwayne Shugart

Blue Ridge Early College

**Thursday, May 21, 2026,
at 6 p.m.
in the Blue Ridge Gym**



The processional "Pomp and Circumstance" arranged by Edward Elgar will be conducted by Music Teacher Marvin Garner, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance performed by Dayanara Feria, Fourth Year Representative and the Star Spangled Banner will be performed by Audrey Rice, former BREC/BRS Secretary. Principal Nathan Frizzell will deliver the Welcome. Special Remarks will be made by Hope Ward and McKenzie Woods. A Moment of Reflection will be led by BRS Teacher Wanda Crisp. "The Night We Met," by Lord Huron, will be a Student Presentation. The Commencement Speaker will be 2015 BREC Graduate Cristian Mireles. The Awarding of Diplomas will be by Principal Nathan Frizzell, Superintendent Dana Ayers, Assistant Superintendent Jake Buchanan, Assistant Principal Paula Jackson and School Counselor Kerstin Stiffler. The Conferring of Degrees will be led by Principal Nathan Frizzell. The recessional "Where'd All the Time Go," arranged by Dr. Dog, will complete the ceremony.

Markus Ruben Alcantar
Kylie Zamudio Alcantar
Anthony Lee Baumgarner
Mason Ross Dorsey
Kylie Brook Eason
Dayanara Cuevas Feria
William Allen Jr. Marks
Destiny Brianna McConnell

Estefani Mendoza Hernandez
Yuridiana Montejo Gomez
Evan Pressley
Kaitlyn Rodriguez
Ashton Grace Shook
Abraham Moisses Villeda-Pineda
Hope Lillian Ward
McKenzie Jean Woods

Jackson County Early College

**Tuesday, May 19, 2026, 6 p.m.
Norman K. Myers Auditorium,
Southwestern Community College,
Balsam Center**



The processional "Pomp and Circumstance" arranged by Edward Elgar will be followed by the Star Spangled Banner played by Harley Stevens, Fourth Year Representative, and the Pledge of Allegiance given by Lucia Gallegos Romero, Fourth Year Representative. Principal Evelyn Graning will deliver the Welcome. The Past will be delivered by Lauren Monnat, the Present will be delivered by Tyee Jones and the Future will be delivered by Jacquelyn Ramirez; all Fourth Year Representatives. Guest Speaker Kathy McMahan, History Teacher and Sophomore HOUSE Advisor, will be introduced by Maya Denmon, Fourth Year Representative. The Presentation of Candidates will be delivered by Allison Hawkins, JCEC Academic Advisor. Diplomas are to be awarded by Principal Evelyn Graning, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Instruction Angie Dills, and Senior HOUSE Advisor and English Teacher Inga Sutton, followed by the Tossing of the Mortarboards. The recessional "Pomp and Circumstance" arranged by Edward Elgar will complete the ceremony.



Zayne Maqbool Adam
Jacquelyn Arrieta Ramirez
Rosa Beck
Jacob Matthew Bird
Elijah Hunter Bishop
Karleeyah D'aja Columbus
Jesse Mciver Dall
Maya Elise Denmon
Piper Ronan Faust
Lucia Ann Gallegos Romero
Hunter Braydon Hyde

Lilia McKenzie Jarvis
Tyee Ashwin Jones
David Keat
Lauren Mae Monnat
Judah Gray-Wolf Morrow
Alexis Jodyann Motola
Lucille Antoinette Nieckarz
Natalia Frances Nieckarz
Ruth Sarai Dismari Osorio
Alexander Stone Padgett
Steffani Sanchez

Colton Christopher Sherman
Serenity Addisen Faith Shores
Christian Tench Simmons
Tucker Dubbert Sparks
Harley Addison Stevens
Findley Harris-Jacoby Stonehouse
Tori Jane Sutton
Lily Grace Swanger
Ramiro Hazel Velazquez Cambron
Barrett Yanik
Finnian David Robert Young

JCEC 2026 Junior Class Marshals

Eason Daniel Ange
Alyvia Adaline Holt
Lia Eleanor Jeffress
Elvis Owen Pearson Hutchinson



Wishing You a Happy Graduation!

Hoping your special day finds you surrounded by friends, family and fun as you celebrate this milestone achievement!

Jackson County Board of Commissioners

401 Grindstaff Cove Rd, Ste A-207
Sylva, NC 28779
828-631-2295
www.jacksonnc.org

End of Main Vintage Market

482 W. Main Street
Sylva, NC 28779
(828) 354-0101

Sylva Insurance

447 West Main Street
Sylva, NC
828-586-2512
www.sylvains.com

City Lights Cafe

Up Spring Street in
Downtown Sylva, NC
28779
(828) 587-CAFE
citylightscfe.com

Jackson County Transit

1148 Haywood Road
Sylva, NC 28779
(828) 586-0233
jacksoncountyttransit.com

Mountain View Eye Care

Brandy E. Hicks, OD
400 East Main Street
Sylva, NC 28779
(828) 586-8080
mountainvieweyecare.net

Allman Insurance

447 West Main Street
Sylva, NC
828-586-2923
www.nationwide.com

Charles Wolfe Insurance

180 Webster Road
Sylva, NC
828-586-4026

Jackson Paper Manufacturing

152 West Main Street
Sylva, NC

Geno Air Conditioning & Heating Inc.

195 Webster Rd., Sylva, NC
828-586-6971

The Well House

At Riverwood Shops
Dillsboro, NC
828-586-8588

Jackson Co. Parks & Rec

Cullowhee and
Cashiers/Glenville
293-3053 /631-2020
rec.jacksonnc.org

Lewis Flooring and Paint

Benjamin Moore Paint
510 Asheville Highway
Sylva, NC
828-586-8511

Country Road Farms

Nursery • Tack &
Western Store
Hwy 441S Sylva, NC
828-586-5515

Jackson Savings Bank

74 W. Main St. Sylva, NC
(828) 586-2451
jacksonsavingsbank.com

Congratulations & Best Wishes!



Congratulations

to the SCC graduating class of 2026!

