



June 2025



Contributors

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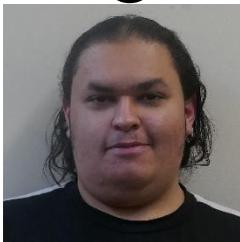
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It Takes a Lot to Graduate from High School and I'm about to Do It

June 2025



Milton Figueroa
Wildcat Times
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I passed all of my Regents Exams. I took time to answer each question – some might've been hard but I remembered a lot correctly from listening in class

On top of that, I completed work-based learning. For this, I visited with elders at the Rochester Presbyterian Home. The class and I talked and hungout with the residents and, sometimes, we played balloon tennis, played bingo, painted with water colors, or worked on chair exercises. It was fun to be with friends and it felt

good to help out.

Classes were fun as well. In journalism we recorded morning announcements, wrote about the news going on in the school, and wished everyone to have a great day. Senior English and gym are fun classes too.

I've tried to help out wherever I could this year. Every time we went to the gym, the teachers needed help setting things up like badminton, volleyball and basketball hoops so we can do sports and have fun – I made sure that everything was ready (plus I complimented the gym teachers for being the nicest gym teachers ever).

I've tried to be kind to all my teachers. Every time, when walking into class, I said good morning teacher, you look nice today. And my teachers like it when I compliment them... sometimes they ask me for a hug or a handshake.

I tried to help out students too by holding doors for them along with friendly waves and compliments.

And I've had fun with my friends. After a fist-bump or high-five, we'd talk about anime, video games and other things we like.

But school's almost over for me – no more classes but I am looking forward to getting a job and meeting new people. While it's sad to leave Wilson, I'm excited for my future.



Juneteenth

June 2025



Trena'De Auston
Wildcat Times
Correspondent

In the middle of June, on the 19th, a nationwide celebration takes place for African Americans to celebrate their freedom. But it hasn't always been that way.

According to *University of South Florida St. Petersburg*, the Emancipation Proclamation was signed in 1863 by Abraham Lincoln, abolishing the practice of slavery in the United States, and freeing all slaves in Confederate states. Although now illegal, many states in the Confederacy refused to follow the law.

Two years later, almost a month after the end of the American Civil War, the final enforcement of the Emancipation Proclamation was ordered in Texas where 250,000 enslaved Americans were declared free by the US Army on June 19, 1865.

The following year, African Americans in Texas communities began to celebrate their independence by having festivities as a way of remembrance.

Soon after, these celebrations had spread throughout the south, and later the entire United States, making Juneteenth a national holiday.

Ms. Walker, a teacher at Wilson Magnet High School, strongly believes Juneteenth is an important holiday.

She said, "...it is the official ending of slavery in 1865. Even though the Emancipation Proclamation was signed in 1863. The slaves in Galveston, Texas were not told they were free when it initially happened because Texas was a slave state so of course they weren't going to tell them..."

The Rochester Juneteenth Festival and Parade is Saturday, June 14th from 11:00 am to 8:00 pm. Organized by the Greater Rochester Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commission, this celebration is filled with dance, music, food, and other activities.

While Walker plans to celebrate, she is unsure how. She says that her family will see what's going on in the community, and maybe participate in one of those activities. Or they will have a cookout at their house while doing arts and crafts.

Whether you call it Jubilee Day, Emancipation Day, Freedom Day or Black Independence Day, Juneteenth is a holiday that should be recognized and celebrated.

Walker says, "This is considered our Independence Day... not the 4th of July."



Class of '25

June 2025



Dallas Gross
Wildcat Times
Correspondent

After a long but quick school year, our Joseph C. Wilson Magnet High School seniors will walk the stage Monday, June 30th at 5:30 pm, commencing in their final school activity.

A class full of so many capable individuals, with such unique minds and personalities, finally being able to walk across the stage, diploma in hand, minds on their futures, ready to take on the new world of adulthood.

According to the CBS Evening News, the Class of '25 is the largest class of graduating high school students in United States history at 3.9 million... many of our Wilson Wildcats, a part of this large group, are on their way to being first-generation college students.

Everyone has their own goals and vision for their career paths: going to the Military, doing a couple of years at college, many years ahead attending a university to become a doctor, going to a trade school... or, maybe, they're still undecided.

Wilson seniors' career paths are just that random: Shawny Smith, graduating Wilson senior, is planning to attend Cayuga College to study social work.

"I'm heading to the Marines," says Saw Ba Blut.

Joseph Baldrich has plans to become a fire fighter.

"I'm doing two-plus-two: for my first two years, I'm going to M.C.C. Then I'm going to St. John Fisher to major in psychology and minor in criminology," says Autumn Hall.

And Milton Figueroa says, "I plan on getting a job at Dollar Tree after graduation."

While Wilson is just a drop in the bucket of the 3.9 million high school graduates this spring, our Wildcats are ready to loudly make their mark on this world, making us back here at Joseph C. Wilson Magnet High School proud!