



## Student Spotlight: Courtney Waters

My name is Courtney Waters and I am 18 years old. I just recently finished all my high school course work and have been settling into my "adult" life! My hobbies include going to the gym (when I have time), reading, and, on occasion, writing. I've always enjoyed learning and loved that school taught me new things.

I enrolled at Foothills because my previous high school required students to have 28 credits before graduating. I had all the classes I needed except my four senior core classes; therefore, I decided to withdraw from my high school and begin attending Foothills.

I really liked how Foothills had multiple teachers per subject, each with a different teaching style, so it made learning better for me because if I didn't understand how one teacher taught it, I could just ask a different teacher. Foothills helped me earn my diploma by assisting me when I needed help with my studies and also encouraging me daily. Foothills helped me learn in a way that worked for me because when I didn't need help or wasn't struggling, I was left alone to do my work in a quiet environment ideal for learning.

Congratulations to Courtney, Class of 2017!

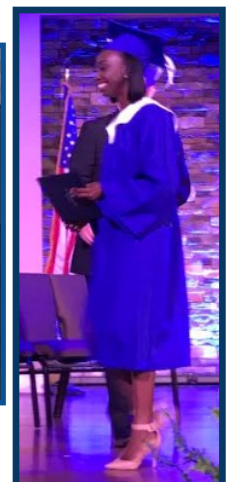
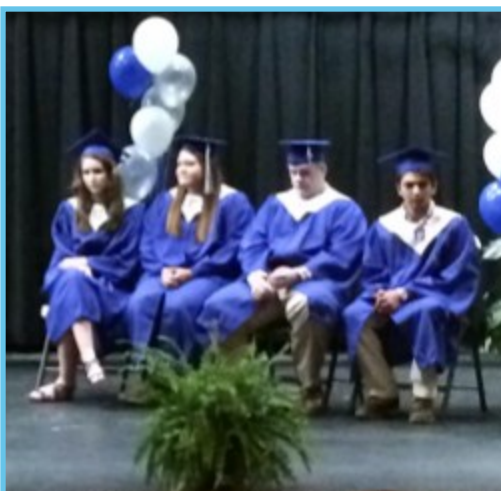


## Picture This: Class of 2017



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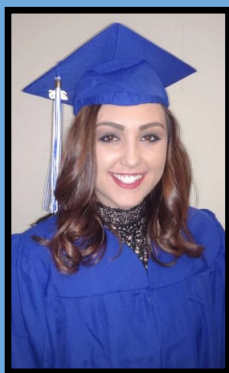
## Class of 2017 Valedictorian

Arbor Lee Bowden is the Valedictorian for the Foothills Class of 2017. Arbor chose to attend the Clarke Foothills site so that he could graduate early. He will work with Casto Landscaping until August 14th, when he reports for basic training with the United States Army. Congratulations, Arbor!



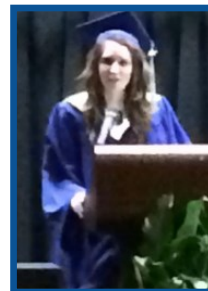
## Class of 2017 Salutatorian

Audrey Caroline Adamson is the Salutatorian for the Foothills Class of 2017. Audrey attended the Madison site.



## Impromptu Graduation Speech: Sarah Holcombe

Approximately two minutes before the graduation ceremony was to begin at the Madison site, a graduation coach told Sarah Holcombe that no student was prepared to speak. So, Sarah volunteered. Her impromptu words about the role that Foothills played in her journey toward graduation were described as "absolutely perfect." We asked a very flattered Sarah, who was not expecting the overwhelming response to her "true experiences," to recall her inspiring words for this edition of *The Foothills Review*.



*I just spoke from my heart. I don't remember every word, but I started by saying what an incredible journey it's been! To stand here in front of all of you is truly a pleasure. I know this isn't exactly a "normal" graduation, but to me, it's better. It's better because everyone here has something to do with how you got here today. It's so much more than a graduation. It's personal. I have never felt more important and loved by a school staff in my 12 years of education. I came from a high school that is described as "the best," and despite the fact that everyone says it's the BEST SCHOOL SYSTEM, I'm standing here in the flesh to tell you, not once in the three years spent at that high school did I feel special, or cared for, or important like I felt at Foothills.*

*Some of the kids who go here thought they would never get to this point of "graduation". They didn't believe in themselves enough and no one else cared to either. Until Foothills. It only takes that one person to say, "I believe in you. I believe you can do this. I believe you are worthy. I believe you are intelligent. I believe you are so much more than what meets the eye." It only takes one person to inspire a student. I'm sure you can think back to that one teacher or counselor that made you feel that way.*

*What's so amazing to me, is none of these teachers have to be here. None of them are required to be at a charter high school 4pm-9pm, two to three days out of the week. That's what's so special; they love to see us soar. They love to see us thrive and reach our goals! These teachers get up early and work all day at their school jobs and then come to Foothills right after to help MORE kids. How incredible is that? What they have done here is nothing short of spectacular.*

*And you should be so proud of your child or grandchild or brother or sister. Because let me tell you, doing a class online ain't easy. I should know, I was in Advanced Algebra for almost a year and a half. I thought I would NEVER make it out of that misery! But when the day came, the best part was looking at my counselor and teachers and telling them. You would have thought I hung the moon or won a Grammy! Because after every class/milestone, you were celebrated. And that was so rewarding! I'm so proud and happy to be graduating from a school that loves education and students more than money or sports or test scores. This is all I could ever ask for. Thank you so much to all these teachers and everyone who comes here and volunteers. You are so appreciated. And congratulations to my fellow graduates. You all should be so proud. We did it!*



Foothills Education Charter  
High School  
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### The Foothills Vision

**Foothills Education Charter High School strives to be an accessible, high-quality high school option that is flexible and responsive to the needs of the People of Georgia and its communities.**