



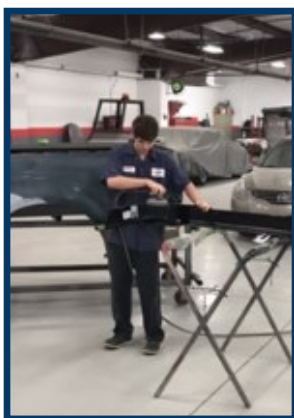
Student Spotlight: James Cagle

As a junior in high school, James Cagle already has a plan for his life. He has found his niche working in auto collision. Prior to his enrollment at our new Foothills Education Charter High School site in Morgan County, James was already working in a local collision center, learning how to prep automobiles for paint work. When he learned about the opportunity to attend classes in the evening at the Morgan site, James saw the chance to take his hands-on learning to a new level while still earning his high school diploma.

When he enrolled at Foothills, the collision center where James was working part-time shifted him to a full-time position. He has now gone beyond prep work, and he is learning paint and body work, as well as how the business office functions. James shares that it is the perfect hands-on learning environment. While he is still able to live at home, he can “work his way up,” so that when he graduates, he will be at a level where he can make a good wage and be self-sufficient. James plans to continue working in the same collision center, or maybe one day, start his own business.

When asked about his experience at Foothills so far, James said he appreciates the “flexible” and “free” nature of the environment. Foothills has not just given him the opportunity to work full-time; he is also able to “earn credits faster” and “go at [his] own pace.” James finished his United States History course in four days and has already taken the end of course exam. James appreciates that Foothills allows students to “focus on where you need to focus.” He is able to speed up the process with some classes, “instead of waiting for a teacher to teach what [he] already knows.” In other areas, though, he is able to slow down and get some additional support. James shares that math is a struggle, so he can spend more time on math each evening. He can also seek help and support from the teachers.

Morgan site TEAM coordinator Penny Moore says that James has not missed an evening since the site opened its doors in January. “He has always got something positive to say and a smile on his face,” she shares. James has definitely had a positive experience at Foothills so far, and in his mind, Foothills is an opportunity that many students don’t realize they have.



In This Issue

- Student Spotlight: James Cagle, Morgan
- Message from the Superintendent
- More of A Good Thing, Replication and Expansion
- Thinking About Next Steps, Baldwin

Message from the Superintendent

As a supporter of Foothills Education Charter High School you have many reasons to be proud. We continue to serve an increasing number of students—over 1300 at this writing. In this edition you will learn more about our expansion and replication efforts. The regional directors will join me next month to give a presentation to the 2017 Georgia Charter School Association Conference about our growth process.

You will also find one of our many success stories at our newest site—Morgan Foothills. James Cagle is focused. He is working hard at a job during the day, and working hard at night to earn his high school diploma. He is loving life and believes in himself. He knows that he can make a difference.

Thanks for supporting us as we grow and continue to impact the lives of students and families across the state.

Dr. Sherrie Gibney-Sherman, Foothills Superintendent

Thinking About Next Steps

Students from Baldwin Foothills recently toured Central Georgia Technical College and met instructors from the Health Care, Automotive and Cosmetology/Barbering Departments. These students learned about the application process and also received information on the Move on When Ready (MOWR) Dual Enrollment program. Students were given information packets in addition to some really cool sunglasses!



More of a Good Thing: Replication and Expansion

Foothills Education Charter High School continues to grow and touch the lives of more students. In August 2015, Foothills opened in seven sites—Arrendale, Baldwin, Barrow, Burruss, Clarke, Jackson, Madison. In January 2017 we expanded and opened two more sites in Glynn and Morgan.

The Glynn Foothills site represents the beginning of a replication of our work. Foothills staff has been working closely with school districts in the First District RESA area to replicate Foothills. The new school, Coastal Plains Education Charter High School, was approved by the State Charter School Commission at their February 22, 2017 meeting. The replication petition was ratified by the Georgia Department of Education at their February 23, 2017 meeting. This means that Coastal Plains will open in August 2017. Coastal Plains will follow the Foothills model. Foothills staff will be involved in training staff and assisting with business operations tasks. We have been working closely with Coastal Plains staff since August 2016 to make this dream a reality. In addition to Glynn County, confirmed school district partners are Candler, Long, and Wayne Counties. We are in conversations with a couple of additional districts as well.

In December 2016, retired Glynn County Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Ricky Rentz, was hired as the Foothills Executive Director. In December 2016, the Coastal Plains Founding Governance Board was established. Ms. Bonnie Knight, Foothills CFO, and Dr. Sherrie Gibney-Sherman, Foothills Superintendent, serve on the board along with Dr. Bubba Longgrear, Candler County Superintendent, and Dr. Jim Pulos, Glynn County Assistant Superintendent, to provide support and direction for the new school.

On July 1, 2017, when Coastal Plains is operational, Mr. Rentz will assume leadership for the new school. For now Mr. Rentz is busy providing oversight for Glynn Foothills, hiring staff, preparing sites, recruiting students, talking to school faculties, building the new website, and more. Foothills staff are working by his side to provide all the support and materials needed to be successful. We will continue this replication relationship for two years until Coastal Plains is ready to stand on their own. This is a replication. Our goal is to make the transition as seamless and successful as possible. Glynn Foothills students and staff will transition to Coastal Plains July 1, 2017.

In addition to the Coastal Plains replication, we are in discussion with two additional sites to potentially join Foothills in fall 2017.

Touching student lives, one at a time. We are making a difference.



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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.