



Student Spotlight: Curtavious' Story

Curtavious Gainey, who is 21, has experienced several life-changing events in the past two years. When he was 19, he found himself on the wrong side of the law and was sent to the Burruss Correctional Facility. On November 4, 2016, in a surprise ceremony at Burruss, Curtavious was told that he had been granted parole and was going home. The third life-changing event? Earning his high school diploma from Foothills Education Charter High School while serving time as an inmate at Burruss.



Curtavious and daughter, Chyanne

On Thanksgiving Day, Curtavious shared his gratitude for the second chance afforded to him by Foothills. Graduation from high school was always a goal, but at the age of 19, having made a costly mistake, he thought it was all over. Curtavious also understood that you “can’t do anything without a diploma.” Instead, the Foothills site at Burruss opened doors for Curtavious, who enrolled at Foothills to earn his diploma in six months while serving time.

Curtavious shares, “It was hard at first,” because the work was mostly independent. It was also sometimes difficult to focus on the “school environment” while at Burruss. However, like so many Foothills students, Curtavious found the support of the staff to be helpful. He specifically mentioned teachers Ms. Davis, Ms. Wooten, and Mr. Smith.

Curtavious also had another motivating force behind his drive for a diploma—his daughter. Upon his release from Burruss, Curtavious’ first desire was to see her, “to see how her face looks.” With pride, Curtavious notes that because of Foothills, his daughter will be able to say “her father helps her with her homework, is able to get a job to provide for her, is able to give her what he didn’t have.”

Earning his diploma at Foothills has opened the door for Curtavious to begin work on his cosmetology license. Since his release, he has found a job apprenticing in a barber shop. One day, he may open his own business, and he is even thinking about attending college to earn a business and marketing degree. None of these dreams would be possible without a high school diploma and the hard work that Curtavious put in at Foothills.

Curtavious has a message for other single parents who might be dreaming of a high school diploma. They may think they “can’t do it, but they are in the free world . . . It’s not hard; it’s easy!” Curtavious has the class ring and the new job to prove it.

We at Foothills could not be more proud of Curtavious and his perseverance as he changed the course of his life. And, we echo his message for other students. It’s not hard to choose to change direction when you want to do so. Foothills will always welcome those who see education as a way to something better.

Education is the most powerful weapon we can use to change the world.

—Nelson Mandela

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A Message from the Superintendent: 'Tis the Season to Support Dreams

Graduating from Foothills Education Charter High School is an honor. For many students, it is a dream that at one time seemed impossible. This year we will be able to award each graduating student a \$100.00 scholarship to support tuition, childcare, books, and other costs to continue education. We are looking for additional scholarships to support students as they transition from high school or to college.

Please contact any site director or go to our webpage for tax deductible donor information for this worthwhile contribution (www.foothills.org).

May all who support and are uplifted by the proud students of Foothills have a restful and fulfilling holiday season.

Sherrie

Dr. Sherrie Gibney-Sherman
Superintendent
Foothills Education Charter
High School

Tutoring for Success, Barrow

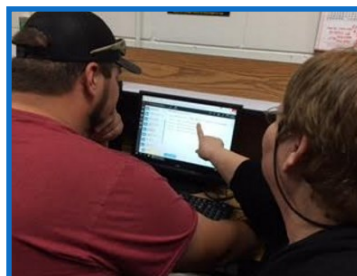
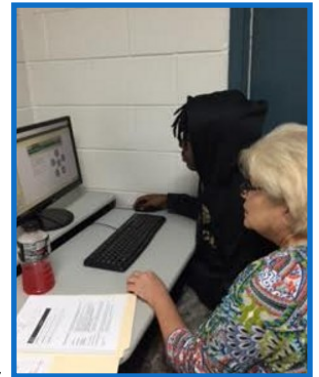
In August of 2016, the Barrow Foothills site began an extensive tutoring program with the focused goal of helping students overcome the hurdles they encountered in subjects that were required for graduation. We saw that students were struggling to achieve in specific courses, and this impacted test scores and graduation rates. Tutoring is a method to address these areas of need.

Research clearly shows that one-on-one tutoring is a reliable and powerful form of instruction that increases student success, achievement on assessments, and student attendance. According to the National Center for Study of Adult Learning and Literacy, learners who have the full attention of a tutor for approximately 90 minutes will have a positive learning experience, and increase academic success, as well as time management and study skills. Tutoring is one of the most powerful instruction techniques for increasing test scores. In Barrow over the last several months, we have discovered that the research holds true—our students are increasing academic achievement due to our tutoring program.

In August, Barrow created a method for tutoring to be incorporated into the education of our students. One assistant site director has overall responsibility for the program. Tutors must be certified in the area that they tutor and cannot be responsible for a classroom when they are tutoring, since it is one-on-one. Students are recommended for tutoring by instructors, mentors and graduation coaches. Students can also request a tutor through one of these avenues. Priority goes to graduating seniors. All tutoring takes place on campus, and tutors keep a log as well to help with data collection.

We have, at this writing, 56 students who are either being tutored or are in line to be tutored. Of those students, nine have graduated and there are at least six who will graduate before 2017. These students attribute their graduation directly to the help they received in the tutoring program. Out of 56 students, four students requested help in Economics, one requested help in Physical Science, one requested help in Chemistry, four requested help in British Literature, and forty-six students are either receiving tutoring in math or are in line for tutoring. Obviously, math is a huge area of need in our tutoring program. Our list grows every single day.

Our students feel successful, more at ease in the classroom, and are more confident when asking questions. They are developing academic confidence. This program has been a win-win for the Barrow site.



In Barrow our tutor program has been a huge success and we are watching it grow rapidly. Please contact Dorann Mansberger at dorann.mansberger@foothillscharter.org if you have specific questions or would like more information.



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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.