



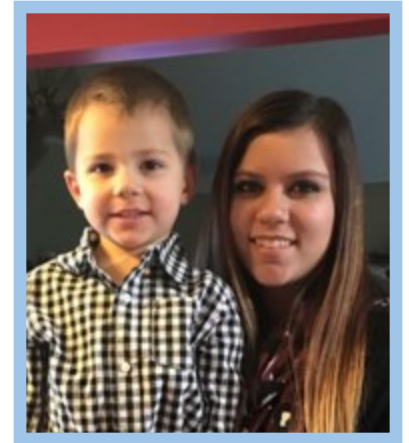
Student Spotlight: Cayley's Story

Cayley Ables, a May 2016 graduate of the Jackson Foothills site, sought out Foothills because it accommodated her busy schedule. Life with a three-year old plus working a full-time and part-time job locked her into a fixed schedule. Prior to enrolling at Foothills, Cayley considered obtaining her GED; however, the program's limited hours prompted her to consider Foothills. Ultimately, this decision allowed her to complete her high school credits, earn her diploma, and gain entrance to a college of her choosing.

What Cayley enjoyed the most about Foothills was the widespread support provided by teachers and the student services staff. She recounts that there was always an instructor willing to work with her on a personal basis. In fact, she says that the teachers went above and beyond to work around her and her son Canaan's schedule.

Today, Cayley is five weeks into her first semester in Paralegal Studies at the University of North Georgia. She plans to complete the courses needed to receive her Associate's Degree and then pursue a job working as a paralegal. Cayley received a scholarship from Foothills to help her with expenses. She hopes that once she finds a more permanent job, she can return to school to work on a Bachelor's Degree.

Cayley has these words for others: "I encourage everyone to get their high school diploma. This (Foothills) program works WITH you. There are no excuses. It is a perfect opportunity to better **you** and for you to move forward with your education. It will pay off one day."



Cayley and Canaan

Message from the Superintendent

Foothills' 2016-2017 school year is underway in full force. We are now armed with a year of experience, nearly 1,000 enrolled students, a focused strategic plan, over 400 dedicated employees, curriculum revisions, and many more ways to help students be successful on the eight required end-of-course tests. The 135 graduates, like Caley, are telling their story. Students are the best advocates for the importance of having a high school diploma.

Every student has individual needs and reasons for choosing Foothills. Help us find those who can benefit from a second chance high school. We stand ready to help design a pathway to high school completion and to transition to a career or college pathway.

We have only just begun.

Dr. Sherrie Gibney-Sherman, Foothills Superintendent

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Army Recruiter Visit, Jackson

Like traditional high schools, the Foothills sites often host guest speakers who share information about postsecondary options with students.

Recently US Army Recruiter, Staff Sergeant Robert Ibarra, visited the Jackson Foothills site. He presented information and then spoke individually to interested students.



Staff Sergeant Ibarra with Jackson Foothills Students

Partnership for Credit Recovery, Barrow

Foothills Education Charter High School has benefitted countless students who found their way to our doors due to flexible programming options. However, having a Foothills site in a community also benefits the local school system in a variety of ways. One of these ways is the potential to provide resources for credit recovery programs for students enrolled at the local school system.

What is credit recovery? When students fail a high school course, they can “recover” the credit by repeating all or part of the course (depending on their grade in the course). Providing credit recovery options, however, is expensive in time and resources for local systems. This is where Foothills can fill a gap.

In Barrow County, Foothills is partnering with the Barrow County School System to provide credit recovery options at Winder-Barrow High School and Apalachee High School. Beginning in January 2017, students in Barrow County who need to “recover” courses can do so through Foothills. In addition to credit recovery students, this partnership in Barrow County will benefit students who transfer to the school system with 1/2 credits in courses. Those students will be able to complete the other 1/2 of their course by using the Foothills option.

Melinda Kay, Director of Secondary Education for the Barrow County School System, highlights the additional flexibility that this partnership with Foothills will provide:

Those students will have the flexibility offered by Foothills’ self-paced courses, so they can work at their own pace instead of within the limited time frames that the school system must impose . . . Participating students will have the option to attend summer school at their home high school in the mornings and at the Foothills site in the evenings, further extending the amount of time they have to complete their courses. We are hopeful this partnership will allow those students who need it a more flexible opportunity to recover missing credits required for graduation.

Foothills is committed to continuing to partner with our communities to better serve them and students with flexible options.



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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.