



Motivated Mom: Destiny Looney, Madison

Unlike many of our student spotlights, Destiny Looney is not a current Foothills student or even a recent graduate. She is one of our very first Foothills graduates, and she received her high school diploma in May of 2016. Since then, this motivated young lady and mother has continued her education journey and is pushing on toward achieving goal after goal.

Destiny agreed to allow us to share a recent social media post that she wrote about her journey:

3 years ago around this time I was beginning my journey at Foothills Charter High. I needed 6-7 credits to graduate and had recently found out I was 6 & a half months pregnant with my now soon to be 3 year old. Although being young and pregnant was a struggle in itself I obtained my high school diploma May 2016. I then began a journey at Athens Tech in which I completed 2 years of school and obtained my diploma in Medical Assisting May of 2018. Some of you may know already, I passed my certification exam therefore I am now a Certified Medical Assistant. This was a huge accomplishment and I know I made my family proud. Well, I am happy to announce I will be a Piedmont employee & my first day of orientation is Monday. Tomorrow will be my second day of my Anatomy & Physiology class because your girl has decided to continue her education and go for her DEGREE in NURSING. Through all obstacles I've made it this far & I pray God continues to have his hands on me.



Destiny and her son at the ATC Graduation Ceremony

We are proud of Destiny and the role that Foothills played in helping her achieve her goals. She is just one of many examples of students who did not let unexpected life changes deter their progress. We continue to cheer you on, Destiny!

Message from the Superintendent

Destiny and her future is what Foothills is all about. Destiny worked hard and was smart enough to take advantage of all that Madison Foothills offered. It is critical that we take a hard look at our work and make sure that we are providing opportunities for students to move forward, not create barriers that will hold them back. Well done, Destiny! Well done, Madison Foothills staff!

Last Thursday, Foothills celebrated the final 2018 graduation in Morgan County, which was filled to standing room only for the regional event. As of August 30, 600 students have earned a Georgia high school diploma since we opened in July 2015. That number represents 600 students who have changed their lives so that they, like Destiny, can make productive choices for themselves and their families. We all win with that accomplishment.

I could not be prouder as we move forward in 2018-2019 with over 2,000 enrolled students making their way to a better future for themselves, their families, their communities, and the great State of Georgia.

Regards,
Sherrie

In This Issue:

- **Motivated Mom, Madison**
- **Message from the Superintendent**
- **What it Means to be a Charter High School**
- **A Note on Continuous Improvement**

A Note on Continuous Improvement

Foothills continues to implement curriculum and assessment changes based on the work of our charter system improvement grant.

Each month, Dr. Ken Sherman, Foothills CAI Communicator, provides an [update](#) on the work that began with the grant. Notable improvements for curriculum and instruction in the recent update include changes to curriculum sequencing and assessments for courses tied to Milestones End of Course Assessments.

- Pre-Algebra is now required before Algebra I and 10th Literature is required before 9th Literature.
- Standards-based assessments created by the Georgia Center for Assessment are being implemented.
- Instructional coaches and curriculum data teams are using assessment results to drive ongoing conversations about curriculum and instruction.

It is the tight links between curriculum, instruction, and assessment (both formative and summative) that will help us reach our goal of increased graduation rate and student success.

What it Means to be a Charter High School

As we enter our 4th year of operation as a Charter High School, it bears reminding ourselves what it means to be a charter high school.

Foothills began when our governing board, made up of the superintendents from the districts we serve and Dr. Gibney-Sherman, submitted and entered into a [charter contract](#) with the State Charter Schools Commission. The charter spells out our mission “to serve high school students who are at risk of dropping out of the public high school system without a high school diploma.”

Along with this statement of mission, our charter outlines the flexibility and innovation that we will provide as we waive some of the requirements for traditional high schools. Our two innovations are the self-paced, mastery nature of the curriculum and the flexible, student-driven schedule. Unlike a traditional high school, Foothills offers students the opportunity to come to school in the evenings, and to choose which evenings and hours between 4pm and 9pm are best suited for them. In addition, students work their way through their courses at their own pace, receiving assistance from certified staff at each site.

Foothills is governed by a [board](#), but even this board is unique in design. The governing board is comprised of the superintendents of the systems we serve. This allows Foothills to never lose focus on students—those students who are at risk of dropping out. This unique partnership with local districts helps us to work together to create a seamless system of support for students—with Foothills being an option for those students who need it.

With increased flexibility, we have not lost accountability. Our charter also spells out measurable goals and our need to meet performance indicators in the [State Charter Schools Commission’s Comprehensive Performance Framework](#).

Our students often cite the flexibility of Foothills as the reason they chose this path, and it is our charter that makes flexibility a reality.



Foothills Education Charter
High School
www.foothillscharter.org
706-795-2191 x 1476

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.