



Congratulations to the graduating class of 2020!



This school year has been like no other, and while it wasn't the year our Seniors envisioned, they continued to push forward. Of our nine graduates, four of them have been with Eastside Academy all four years! We wanted to recognized and honor the hard work of these graduates, so the Class of 2020 was treated to a drive-through graduation ceremony, and it was absolutely incredible. Our Seniors marched down a long line of decorated cars while guests cheered, honked horns, and waved signs. Pomp and Circumstance played loudly, confetti flew, and the ceremony was played on a large outdoor screen. Our graduates will never forget the love and support they felt on their special day. Thank you.

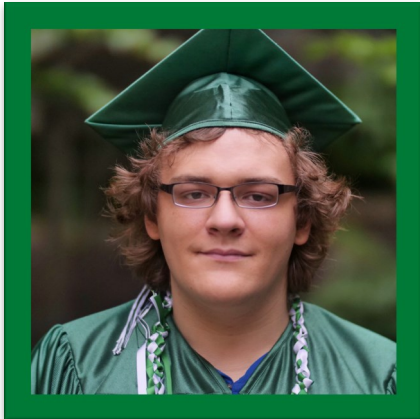
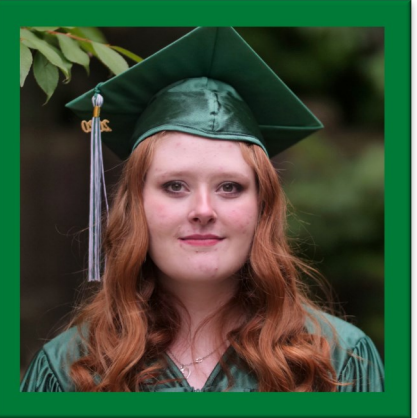
Each year, before our Seniors leave EA, we ask for their feedback. We take their input to heart and use their advice to shape future programs. In these interviews, patterns emerged: The intentionally small classes enabled them to be academically successful. The Re:New Homes saved lives. The therapeutic support allowed them to be vulnerable. A Christ-led environment was eye-opening. Knowing they had a community carrying them forward made all the difference in their ability to finish high school. This included mentors, volunteers, prayer partners, bakers, Women at the Well, staff, and families.

Thank you for walking alongside our ministry. We could not do this work without you. As we move into the 2020-2021 school year, Eastside Academy remains poised to meet a potentially new world. Together, we will face these challenges and continue to surround youth with the help they need to thrive.

Sincerely,

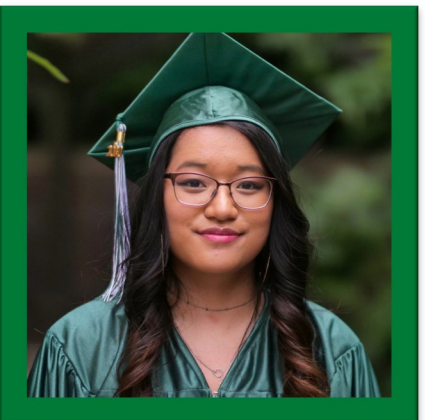
Executive Director

Abigail Smith: I had always struggled in school. I was still very behind, and I struggled to learn at the same pace as other students. EA helped me to catch up and be able to graduate on time. They taught me how to better deal with my anxiety and taught me to be more aware of my mental health. They have also provided me ways to help me grow in my faith in Christ. In the last year, I have done a lot of work to have better confidence in myself and have learned to put up healthier boundaries. I have figured out who I am and what I want for my life. After graduation, I'm going to be a full-time student at Northwest University, and I will be double majoring in Intercultural Studies and Elementary Education.

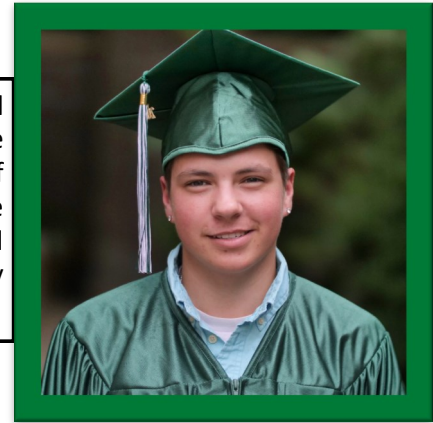


Camden Mario Ernest Dalpez: My 10th-grade year was rough. I took out a lot of that frustration on others. I had a lot of anxiety, and a bunch of kids ended up disliking me for how I acted, causing me to become depressed. Since being at EA, I've gotten a lot better with my self-esteem and work ethic. The staff is very supportive, which has helped me a lot. I learned that it's okay to reach out to people when I need help. After graduation, I plan to start an apprenticeship with a professional AV technician or concert stager and volunteer at concerts. My dream is to become a successful technician for concerts and live events.

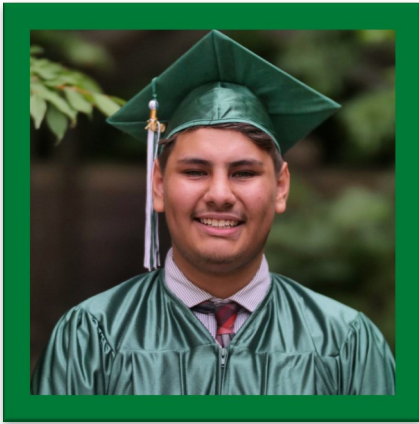
Claire Taylor: Before EA, I was severely depressed. I struggled a lot with anxiety, and keeping up academically was very difficult for me. Now, EA is like another family to me. I've built strong friendships with people that I can tell will last a lifetime. I can honestly say that without EA, I wouldn't be as confident and healthy as I am now. I still do have rough days, I still struggle, but I have somewhere that I feel like I belong. The past two years of my life have been harder than I could have imagined, but the support I got from the staff at EA is unlike anything I've ever gotten before. My plans after graduation are to study Early Childhood Education. I dream of being able to change a child's life by teaching them and helping them find God. I can't change the world, but I can change a child's world by being a teacher.



Eric Williams: I was doing poorly in school and at home. I never completed my homework, as I was never taught how to. At EA, having one-on-one time and being able to have a period to talk with peers and staff is terrific. It allowed me to learn because the teachers actually would take time to help me understand everything. EA has taught me to listen and process before talking. The thing I am most proud of since being at EA is that my grades have improved and that I am graduating! I plan to go to Bellevue College and get an undergrad degree. I then want to get a bachelor's degree in marketing or go to a trade school and become an electrician.



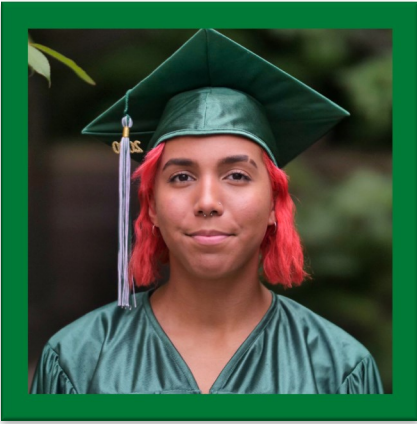
Kaden McAllister: Before Eastside Academy, I was having a lot of trouble in school and getting bad grades. Since being at EA, I have gotten better grades and have learned valuable life skills. Something I have done this past year that I am proud of is getting a job that I really enjoy. My plan after graduation is to attend Bellevue College and to keep working. My goal for the future is to finish Bellevue College and possibly transfer to get a four-year degree. After that, I would like to work my way up in law enforcement.



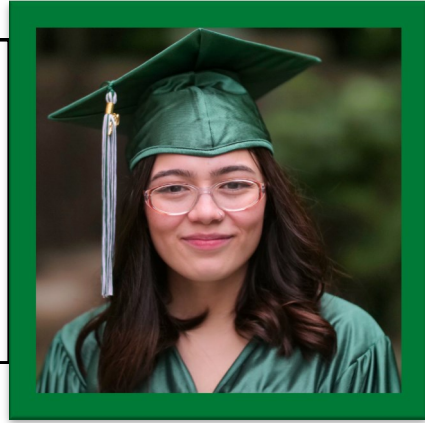
Leonardo Fisher-Alvarez: Before coming to Eastside Academy, I was closed off, isolated, and depressed. I was not in a good place. I didn't like my life. Since being at EA, I learned how great my life is and how much love is around me. I am in the happiest place in my life and will not look back. I learned to find strength in sharing my struggles and not trying to do it all myself. The thing I'm most proud of to have learned is understanding my emotions and having my friends and family hear my struggles and looking to them for help. My plan after graduation is to be a plumbing apprentice. My goals and dreams for my future are to work hard, have a good life, and a happy family.



Liam Roche: Before EA I was stagnant, I had no future goals or plans, and had nothing to look forward to. Since being at EA, I am always surrounded by great people that are understanding and are here to help. I've gained a sense of community that I feel happy to be a part of. This past year, I have been most proud of attending wilderness therapy, it helped me a lot. After graduation, I plan to attend Bellevue College for psychology, transfer to a university, and go into a therapeutic line of work. My goal for the future is to be happy and content with the life I am living.



Liliana Fritton: In the past, school caused a lot of anxiety for me. I always dreaded going. Starting at Eastside Academy was one of the best choices I made for myself. I immediately felt welcomed into the community and looked forward to going to class. Being in a smaller and more supportive atmosphere made it easier for me to focus on schoolwork, and my grades improved immensely. The girl's house was so beneficial for me and helped me through difficult situations. My plan after graduation is to attend Evergreen State College. I hope to go to Hawaii and work at the treatment center I went to, Pacific Quest. Then later become a photojournalist and travel.



Maria Sosa: Before attending EA, I was doing well in school, but I was struggling with my home life and my mental health from physical and mental abuse. I struggled with making new friends because I had so much anxiety and felt that people would judge me. I couldn't trust many people. Being at Eastside Academy and in the housing program has changed my life completely. I have worked with my trauma and learned to understand my story. I have learned that you don't have to work on things alone; you have a support system all around you. After graduating, I plan to go to Bellevue College and study Early Childhood Education to become a preschool teacher. My goal is to become a preschool teacher because I love children.

2020 Graduation Fundraiser

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