

Congratulations to the class of 2014!



This year, we are graduating eight wonderful seniors, all of whom will be dearly missed on a daily basis at Eastside Academy. These students have not only worked hard to get to the high school finish line, but they have excelled in doing so. Let me share a few of their highlights:

All of these students applied to and were accepted to colleges or universities of their choice

Four of these students received college scholarships

All have made Honor Roll (3.5 GPA and above)

All of these students have successfully held down jobs

Two of them played on the Eastside Academy Lions basketball team

Four of these students enrolled in Running Start at Bellevue College

Two of them will soon be going on mission trips to Costa Rica

As we joyfully recognize these accomplishments, we must also celebrate the equally valuable life-lessons they have learned along the way: trust, transparency, cooperation, and wisdom. I am truly humbled as I look at the qualities of each of these students, and how far they have come.

This school year, we continually emphasized to all of our students that God does not design us to live life alone. He intends for us to be surrounded by individuals who deeply care and support us in doing our best. <u>You have been that community for our students</u>. By serving as tutors, acting as mentors, baking treats, praying for all of us, and financially supporting this school, you continue to create an environment that enables God's precious children to succeed and know what it is like to have a relationship with Him.

Thank you for helping Alex, Elliott, Ruby, Alyssa, Olivia, Brittney, Yvette, and Trinity to grow and graduate.

Sincerely,

Voni Esparza

Executive Director

Thank you to our photographers Ted Cook and Per Thomassen



Uriel Alejandro Arellano Cisneros

Before coming to Eastside Academy, I had a bad attitude and bad grades. I was hanging out with the wrong crowd. Now, my life has changed dramatically through the help I have gotten from the Eastside Academy staff. I have learned to trust people and be more open with my feelings. I'm really proud of having good grades—I never had good grades before. I'm also very proud of pranking people at school! After graduation, I'm going to get an Auto Certificate through Renton Technical College or Lake Washington Institute of Technology, and I will still be working. I'm going to take a huge breath and pat myself on the back because this is real!



Elliott Thomas Butterworth

My life before Eastside Academy was a lot of depression, isolation, and drugs. I wasn't able to figure out who I was. I struggled in school and didn't really care about finishing. Things have gotten a lot better though. Treatment got me in a better place. Eastside Academy has helped me stay positive through challenges that I would have struggled a lot more with had I not been here. I've learned to fix problems that seem like they can't be fixed, how to deal with lots of people, and how to always be prepared. I've gotten a scholarship and signed up for college classes, and I'm really proud of that. My plan after this is to sleep in, go to Lake Washington Auto Mechanic Program, get a new job, and save money.



Ruby Jean Monique Beaulieu Byron

Before Eastside Academy, I was consumed with self-hate and drug addiction. I was a stubborn closed door. Now, I have changed completely. Recently, I had 2.5 years sober, and 1.5 years without cigarettes. I have found all I need in Jesus Christ. Eastside Academy has taught me that God loves me for who I am and where I'm at regardless of my past. I'm most proud of my sobriety—this past year was difficult, but I managed to make it! After graduating, I'm getting my AA at Bellevue College then transferring to Seattle Pacific University to become a Special Education Teacher for physical and learning disabilities.



Alyssa Lynn Conroy

I used to struggle in school and I didn't know where my life was going. Being a student at Eastside Academy has changed my life by teaching me to grow in my faith and my art skills. The most helpful thing I've learned at EA is my faith in God. This past year, I applied for a scholarship, and in that process, I learned a lot about the skills needed to be a leader. I also learned how to write an essay, and I'm really proud of that. My plans after graduation are to pursue my dreams of working in the fashion industry by getting a job at Nordstrom and going to Seattle Community College for their Fashion Design Program.



Olivia Anne Klco

I have lived in Seattle all my life. I have a little sister, two dogs, and a cat. In 7th grade something horrible happened to me, and I began to be selfdestructive. I continued to become more and more depressed, until finally, I went to treatment in 2011, and then came to Eastside Academy in 2013. Now, I am sober and feel better than I have in months. Eastside Academy helped me get in a better place with my sobriety. I'm really proud to be graduating. After high school, I plan to get a job and save money so I can go to Bellevue College in the fall.



Brittney Marisol Marquez-Ramirez

Before Eastside Academy, I had no hope for anything, and I could never ask for help. Overall, I'm now a better person. I've learned how to communicate a lot better, and I'm able to distinguish right from wrong. I've learned how to be more open and how to trust people. I'm really proud of my good grades, and I recently received a college scholarship! This past year, I was also part of the Student Council. Next year, I plan to go to Renton Technical College for a Phlebotomy course.



Yvette Desiree Rayas

My life was broken and slowly falling apart. I was skipping school and didn't care. Deep down inside I wanted to change, but I didn't have the strength or courage to go back and be a student. Everything was becoming hard, and I was alone. Now, my life has turned around. My educational part of life has grown from having "F's" to getting straight "A's" and being on honor roll. Not only am I a better student, but I am better about my life and have a better view of God. What Eastside Academy has taught me is to always have confidence and never give up. I'm so proud to be graduating on time. I've taken extra classes to reach my goal and to be on honor roll. Next year, I will attend college and specialize in Neonatal Nursing or Dentistry.



Trinity Grace Torres

Before I came to Eastside Academy, I was overwhelmed by family situations. This affected my freshman and sophomore year, resulting in me having to repeat a year. After coming to EA, I have been successful with my grades, and I've been able to find the support I needed to catch up and redo a year. This school has taught me how not to give up after being discouraged, and they showed me how much I can accomplish with determination and encouragement. I am proud of being accepted to Whitworth University. I will attend Whitworth in the fall to get my Bachelor's degree in Heath Science. Then, I will transfer to the University of Washington for their master's program in Prosthetics.

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EASTSIDE ACADEMY

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Eastside Academy Summer Activities

If you wish to join us, please call Dan Hedman at 425-452-9920 x6006 for details

July 30–BBQ at EA August 6 –Movie "Guardians of the Galaxy" August 13–BBQ at Meydenbauer Beach Park August 21–Parent/Student Orientation June 25—BBQ at Bellevue Park June 30– July 4 —Eastside Academy closed July 9—BBQ at Meydenbauer Beach Park July 16—Gasworks Park July 23—Pike Place Market