



Congratulations to the class of 2015!



I'm so proud to introduce you to Nick, Abby, Kylie, Sasha and Anna (front row). Gabriel, Matt, Isaac, and Ben (second row). Together, they are Eastside Academy's 2015 graduating class. Included in this amazing group is Ben, our first graduate from the Eastside Academy Overlake Campus!

We believe that these are some of the most courageous and brave young people on the face of the planet. I have personally learned so much from these beautiful people. Each of these nine students overcame hardship and displayed courage that is truly humbling. They have aspirations of becoming psychologists, tattoo artists, musicians, art-therapists, and counselors. Every single one of them has expressed a desire to help others through the lessons they've learned at Eastside Academy.

In these students, I see a demonstration of God's promises coming true, as He has brought them to this day. In Isaiah 43, God says to his people:

"Fear not, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.
² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.
^{3 4} Because you are precious in my eyes,
and honored, and I love you"

Each and every volunteer, mentor, and donor is a part of conveying this message to students. You tell our students that they are precious. You show our students that the fire and water will not overwhelm or consume them. You mentor them, pray for them, cook for them, open your homes to them, and most importantly, model to them the unconditional love that Christ gives all of us.

Executive Director



Stephen Gabriel Andrews: Before Eastside Academy, my life was very enjoyable, but not to where I felt content. I thought academics were a joke and I really didn't care about the future after high school. Now that I'm at Eastside, it's really given me a chance to blossom and become a truly independent individual. It has made me grow as a leader to the point of being student body Co-President. One of the things I've learned at EA is that doing what you have to do, even when you don't feel like it, goes a long way. Also, take risks. Those who don't take risks have already mentally failed. I'm really proud of the fact that I'm ten months sober, and that I got into at least seven colleges. I've also rekindled my relationship with my parents. My goal is to finish college with at least a 3.6 GPA, and help my older and younger brothers when they need help. I will then join the Navy, have a family and kids, travel the world and love life.



Anna Colleen Conklin: Previously in my life before EA I kept to myself and isolated myself from other people and the things I enjoyed in my daily life. I lacked trust in anyone simply because I felt that no one truly had my best interest at heart. I was under the impression that people who wanted my trust were always expecting something in return. I was unable to grasp the idea of love, so I separated myself from people to become in control of my emotions to the point that I became emotionless. At Eastside Academy there have been many aspects that have enriched my life. I appreciate the amount of time my teachers have been willing to spend with me. I began to understand the idea that there can be people who have the willingness to see me succeed and have my best interests at heart, without expecting anything in return. I am proud to say that I have been accepted at Northwest University in Kirkland to study Psychology to become a clinical therapist. My hope is to be a voice in peoples' lives who have struggled just like me and my expectation for myself is to learn from them in return.



Isaac Nathaniel Dyer: Before Eastside Academy, I didn't have much purpose. I was a drug addict who didn't think he could get his diploma. I went through gangs, drugs, and thugs. I did a lot of damage and was dealt a lot of damage. Since coming to Eastside Academy, I have a purpose. I love people. I have family and friends. I love myself. I am happy and strong without hate in my heart. Soon, I'll finally have that diploma! I've achieved what once seemed impossible to me. After graduation, I plan to move back to Melbourne, Australia. I'm going to serve the world of recovery there and help my friends and strangers get clean and achieve happiness. My goals are to get married, have a family, share recovery, and start a Narcotics Anonymous meeting to help people get clean.



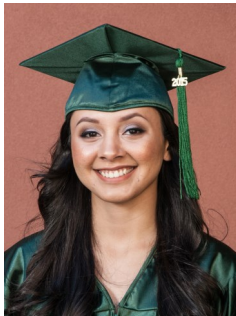
Ben Fisher-Alvarez: Before coming to Eastside Academy I was going through some really dark times. I had no confidence, no sense of self-worth. I wasn't a very social person to begin with, so it made it that much harder for me to fit in at my other school. Ever since I started attending Eastside Academy, my self-confidence has improved dramatically. I have been feeling like I'm worth something now, and I have gained skills in leadership. When I graduate, I'm going to get a job for the summer and save some money to go to college. I'm not sure what I want to do yet, but I do know I want to make a positive impact on others' lives.



Nicholas S. Harris: Before Eastside Academy, I was using every day. I had no idea of spirituality. I had no trust with anyone, especially my family. I had low self-esteem, and was getting arrested. My life was a living hell, and at one point, I couldn't look at myself in the mirror anymore. Since coming to EA, I have remembered what it is like to have a relationship with my family. I began discovering a relationship with God. My life changed – I was able to get a job and sustain it. I've learned that being dishonest in any situation will get me into more trouble. I am really grateful that I was encouraged to get help, and am thankful for being able to be a part of Eastside Academy. Finally, I am now able to complete school and graduate! I would like to become a tattoo artist, remain sober, and have healthy relationships with friends and family.



Matthew Daniel Coster Hertog: I came to Eastside Academy out of an 11 month treatment facility. I struggled staying sober and needed a place where I could be sober and be accepted for being sober. Honestly, recovery has had its ups and downs and turnarounds. I've had good days and I've had bad days, but the relationships I've made and the knowledge I have gained have helped me become a better person. It's helped me push through obstacles in my life. I have learned that there are always people there for you, so when you need help, ask for it. I have become a young man who has goals and dreams of a successful future. I also have developed virtues and morals that have made me into a person I never thought I could be. After graduation, I plan to continue my recovery and attend college. My goals are to travel the world, help others, pursue a career in counseling or therapy, and one day, start a family.



Abigail Romero: Before Eastside Academy, I was really unmotivated and had no desire to be in school. I also struggled with depression, and liking who I was as a person. Since coming to EA, I've gotten a lot better academically, and I've learned a lot of healthy ways to deal with struggles in life. The most helpful thing that Eastside Academy has taught me is that you don't need to be alone, and that it's OK to ask for help - it's not a sign of weakness. I am proud of how independent I've become in the past year. I plan to attend North Seattle Community College and continue working. My dream is to have a job that I enjoy doing and to live in the city with a puppy to keep me company through hardships in life.



Kylie C. F. Turcan: Before Eastside Academy, my life was driven by drugs. Besides drugs, my abusive boyfriend was my center because he gave me worth. I wasn't attending school and I wasn't in contact with my family. I hoped to die before I was 18 years old. Being at Eastside Academy, I've learned that I have a purpose and was chosen out of many people who could benefit from EA. Everything has happened so my "plan" can fall into place. Now, I have a good relationship with my family, good grades, good friends, and self-worth. I'm graduating on time. I have learned to communicate, accept support, love and be loved. I have motivation and I know I have a good life with value. I'm really proud of the fact that I have two years sober! After graduation, I plan to work part-time and start going to Shoreline Community College. Then I'll transfer to a four year college so I can become an art therapist.



Alexandra Michaela (Sasha) Vargas: It has been a struggle to accept myself. I was always judgmental of myself and rude to anyone who complimented me. My life has really changed since coming to Eastside Academy. I messed up a few times, but who doesn't? I have really opened my eyes to letting people help me. I am more major and more comfortable with myself. I am so thankful for EA, that "thank you" doesn't describe how I'm feeling. Everyone at this school is here for you and wants the best for you. Also, everyone loves you for who you are and will tell you that every day. The thing I'm most proud of is that I have given myself the chance to see what I could do—to see the potential that I know I have always had. To actually put it into use was an accomplishment for me. I plan to go a year at community college and then transfer to a four year school to study to be a lawyer. I want to have a successful job and be the best I can be, not only for my family, but out in the real world.

Congratulations Class of 2015!

Thank you to our photographers: Ted Cook and Per Thomassen

Eastside Academy Summer Activities

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

- June 24—BBQ at Bellevue Park
- June 29—July 3—Eastside Academy closed
- July 8—BBQ at Meydenbauer Beach Park
- July 15—Pike Place Market
- July 22—Ant Man at Lincoln Square
- July 29—Tubing and Water Skiing
- August 5—Ice Blocking
- August 12—BBQ at Meydenbauer Beach Park
- August 19—BBFQ at EA
- August 27—Orientation

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I want to help future Eastside Academy students graduate from high school!

I will make a monthly pledge of (check one) \$35 \$50 \$75 \$100 \$_____ (other)

For (check one) 12 months 24 months Ongoing (with credit card) OR:

I prefer to make a one-time donation of \$_____

Name: _____ Email: _____

Street Address: City, State, Zip _____ Phone: _____

Enclosed is my check to "Eastside Academy" Please send me envelopes for subsequent months.

Mail to: Eastside Academy, 1717 Bellevue Way NE, Bellevue, WA 98004 OR—

I authorize Eastside Academy to debit/charge my credit card for the amount indicated above

Visa/MasterCard #: _____ Expiration date: _____ / _____ 3 digit security code: _____ (last 3 digits on back)

Name as it appears on Card: _____