



Student Spotlight: Marcus Solomon, Morgan

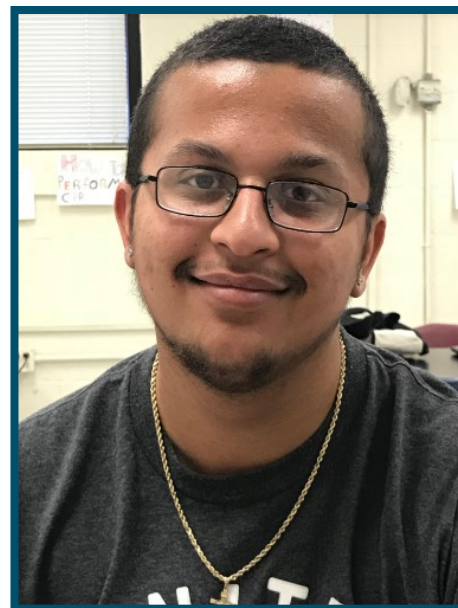
Submitted by: Patti Baldwin, Morgan Graduation Coach

Marcus Solomon, along with 57 other students who have completed their high school credits since mid-August, is a proud member of the Foothills class of 2018. Marcus transferred to Foothills during his junior year of high school from Morgan County Schools. Since transferring in January of 2017, Marcus has completed his graduation requirements—one semester before his grade and age-level peers! Marcus also holds the honor of being the first dual enrollment student at our Morgan Foothills site.

Marcus enrolled in Foothills so that he could graduate early, while also continuing to work and attend school simultaneously. Foothills was the right option for Marcus for several reasons. In addition to having flexibility in his schedule to work and attend school, Marcus enjoyed being able to work at his own pace. Foothills' unique structure allowed Marcus to move faster through courses he was "good at," but take more time in the courses where he experienced difficulty. Marcus shared that he had the time and opportunity to get more one-on-one time from teachers, and had access to extra support in math courses. This is not something that he was able to access in the traditional high school setting.

As a new high school graduate, Marcus has recently taken the SAT, and he plans to continue his learning at the postsecondary level.

We congratulate Marcus, and all of our winter graduates, and we wish them luck as they begin the next phase of their journey!



Message from the Superintendent

As we begin 2018 at Foothills Education Charter High School, we are looking forward to our winter graduation on January 12th at 7pm. This celebration of our ever-growing class of 2018 was rescheduled due to snow and ice in mid-December. So, we are eagerly anticipating the opportunity to congratulate our graduates!

In addition, Foothills staff are continuing to prepare for our AdvancED accreditation visit in late February. The accreditation process, described in more detail on page 2, involves a self-examination of our practices and procedures as we work to continuously improve our services to our students and communities. We are pleased with where we are, a little over three years into this journey, and we are eager to share our work with the visiting AdvancED team.

We are hopeful that 2018 will bring continued success to our students, as they seize new opportunities to grow and improve. As we begin a new year, we are reminded that "it is never too late to become what we might have been."

Happy New Year!

Dr. Sherrie Gibney-Sherman, Foothills Superintendent

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Class of 2018 Update



The class of 2018 is currently 58 members strong!

We will celebrate our winter graduates on January 12th at 7pm, at the Wesley Building in Madison, GA.

Our spring graduation dates have also been set! We look forward to celebrating the Class of 2018 at each site:

Baldwin—June 4, 6pm @ TBD

Barrow—June 1, 7pm @ Bethlehem Church

Burruss—June 28, 10am @ Burruss

Clarke—May 30, 7pm @ Mell Auditorium

Jackson—June 7, 7pm @ EJCHS Auditorium

Lee Arrendale—June 21, 10am @ Arrendale

Madison—June 2, 2pm @ MCHS Theater

Morgan—June 5, 7pm @ TBD

Phillips—June 7, 10am @ Phillips

Walton—May 31, 7pm @ MAHS Auditorium

AdvancED Accreditation Visit: A Continuous Improvement Process

Between February 25 and February 28, Foothills will host an AdvancED Engagement Review Team. AdvancED is a non-partisan, non-profit organization that conducts rigorous external reviews of education institutions around the world. The external team of educators that will visit Foothills in late February will talk with staff and other stakeholders, review documents, and observe classrooms. They will provide feedback to Foothills' leadership and the governing board that will guide our continuous improvement efforts, and ultimately, they will make a recommendation regarding whether or not Foothills should be accredited. AdvancED states that their goal isn't to decide if Foothills is "good enough"; rather, they are committed to helping us "continuously improve" (<http://www.advanc-ed.org/about-us>).

The process of accreditation does not begin with the visiting team in February. Foothills leadership and staff have been working to prepare for the external visit for many months. A small leadership team is spearheading the work, and stakeholders (from the governance board to community partners) have been asked to provide input and feedback via surveys.

As we move into January, we will use stakeholder feedback to finalize self-ratings on a variety of "system quality factors," such as clear direction, high expectations, and resource management. In addition, we will be gathering artifacts and evidence that demonstrate Foothills' commitment to and implementation of these quality factors.

Because of the unique structure of Foothills, our processes and evidence do not always fit the AdvancED framework or quality factors the same way that they would for a traditional high school. Yet, we have been pleased to find throughout this self-assessment process that our work at Foothills is "quality" work, and we are excited to share the work of Foothills with our visiting team.



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.



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