



Student Spotlight: Tatianna Riden

Michelle Garrison, Madison Foothills

A “long road traveled” is what one might think about when speaking with Tatianna Riden. Tatianna has always struggled with academics. She explains that she has never been able to read very well, and that has caused her major difficulty. Needless to say, she was very frustrated in the school she was attending and felt defeated. Not only was she failing academically, but she also reports being harassed and bullied by her peers, which resulted in altercations. She had pretty much given up hope until her cousins came by one afternoon and told her about Foothills. One cousin is a graduate of Foothills, and another cousin is currently enrolled. Tatianna talked over the option of Foothills with her grandmother, and soon she was enrolling at the Madison site.

A welcome sigh of relief along with excitement is what Tatianna felt as soon as she walked through the front doors at Madison Foothills. She smiles as she remembers, “The first person to greet me was Mrs. Beard, and she had a big smile on her face and sincerely welcomed me.” Tatianna goes on to say, “I then met Mrs. Kate in the front office, and she was so nice and friendly, so I went home that night and told my grandmother that I know I made the right decision.” Last but not least, Tatianna says, “Then I met you, and when you told me to call you Mama G, I knew that the people here really cared about me . . . I really love Foothills because I get more one-on-one attention and my teachers treat me with respect. They are always there to help me. It is like they know I need help even before I ask for it.” With a huge smile on her face, Tatianna says, “You just don’t know how that makes me feel. At my other school, no one offered me help even when I asked for it. It was like I was bothering them.”

Tatianna is currently working approximately 30 hours a week at Publix, along with attending Foothills daily. What stands out to me about Tatianna is her work ethic, both here at Foothill and at Publix. The fact that she has a weekly budget and schedule she follows relentlessly allows us to see her determination and dedication for her future. She is determined to be the first person to graduate in her family. She talks about how neither her mom, grandmother, nor great grandmother graduated from high school. Tatianna has big plans for her future: “Not only will I be the first graduate, but I also want to have a career. I really want to be a detective. I really like mysteries and solving problems.”

As we were ending our conversation, Tatianna shared her thoughts on her fellow students and the Foothills staff: “I feel that everyone here at Foothills wants to be here. There isn’t any drama and everyone respects each other. Teachers respect me and don’t talk about me to others. I also feel that they really want to focus on what is best for me and what works for me.” Tatianna shares words of motivation for her fellow Foothills students who see the “long road” ahead: “Thank God every day to see another day, another year, and another birthday. Always remind yourself that you are beautiful, it is going to be a great day, and don’t let the negative get between you and the positive.”



Message from the Superintendent

Welcome back to school, sort of. Foothills is a year-round school. Every day could be the first day for all of our students. Every day could be graduation day for all of our students. We are thrilled to welcome each new student who walks through our doors when they walk through our doors!

We are happy to report that Walton Foothills had a successful opening. Phillips Foothills will open September 11. Both sites are on track to serve many students.

So, welcome back, wherever you are in the schooling process! Have a great school year!

Dr. Sherrie Gibney-Sherman, Foothills Superintendent

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Collaboration with Coastal Plains

Coastal Plains Education Charter High School, which is a replication of Foothills, is having great success with their opening! Nearly 800 students have registered for the six sites at this point.

Foothills staff have provided the training and support for the creation of Coastal Plains. We are so pleased with the results. Hundreds of students will now have the opportunity to earn a high school diploma because of the hard work of many people every day!



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

Thinking Toward the Future: College and Career Opportunities, Morgan

While the main goal of Foothills is to provide a flexible option for students to earn a high school diploma, we recognize the need to prepare our students for life beyond high school as well. Periodically, our various sites host opportunities for students to learn more about college and career opportunities available to them.

In August, the Morgan Foothills site, one of our newest sites, was proud to host two college and career opportunities for students. On August 10th, Morgan invited the county fire chief, Chief Stone, to come in and speak to the students about public service careers in the fields of firefighting and emergency response. On August 17th, Morgan hosted Georgia Military College for a "meet and greet" with students who qualify for college classes.

Not only do these types of opportunities provide students with information on options available to them, but they further serve to motivate students to strive toward the goal of graduation.



Chief Stone speaks about public service careers at the Morgan site.

Georgia Military College staff speak to students at the Morgan site about college opportunities.



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.