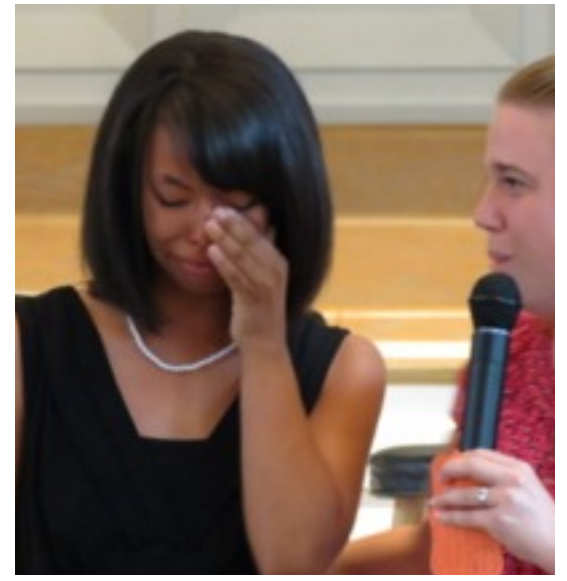


# Hope Academy Graduation



Class of 2013



Our students had never been honored in public before so each teacher praised a different student. Their reactions ranged from looks of proud accomplishment to genuine laughter and affection to tears at the difficulty of the path that led to this night.

**At the beginning of the school year, none of our 8th graders would speak publicly. By graduation, several of the students—even one of our most introverted ones— wanted to express their gratitude for the opportunity they had been given.**

*“Hope. Have you ever thought about what that means? It means having love all around you everyday, having a mom who loves with all her heart and it means having people who encourage you all school year long telling you that you can do it - not ever letting you give up. Having teachers, principals, and family members going out of the way just to help you with something. I have accomplished many things being here at Hope Academy but I would say my biggest of all is getting accepted into the Middle College at Bennett. I thank everyone who supported me in getting this. THANK YOU!”*



*“When I first heard about Hope Academy, I knew that I wanted to attend. Something about the word HOPE caught my attention. It seemed that God was calling me to go there. I knew that I had to do everything and anything for my mom to let me go to Hope Academy. I cried almost every night beside my mother’s bed. Since she saw that I cared she finally said “yes, you can go to Hope.” I am so happy that I attended Hope Academy this year because it made me the mature young adult that I am today. Hope Academy has brought me even closer to God than I thought I could be, and I am thankful for that. Some advice I would give future students is to not take this opportunity that you have as a joke or for granted. The people here at Hope Academy are here to help you become a smart mature young adult that you are soon to be. Thank you Hope Academy and thank you for the ones that helped us be the school we are today.”*



At the end of the ceremony, each student lit a candle and Mr. Zimmerman read from Matthew 15: 14-16. The teachers and staff then prayed over the students that they may take the Light they have received from Hope Academy into their futures to help change the lives of others.