

Turning Tassels. On June 5 as Madeleine Fuertes makes her way off the stage, she moves her tassel the left to symbolize being an official graduate. "As I walked off the stage and moved my tassel, I was overwhelmed with emotions," Madeleine said. "It was truly bittersweet." Photo by K. Huerta

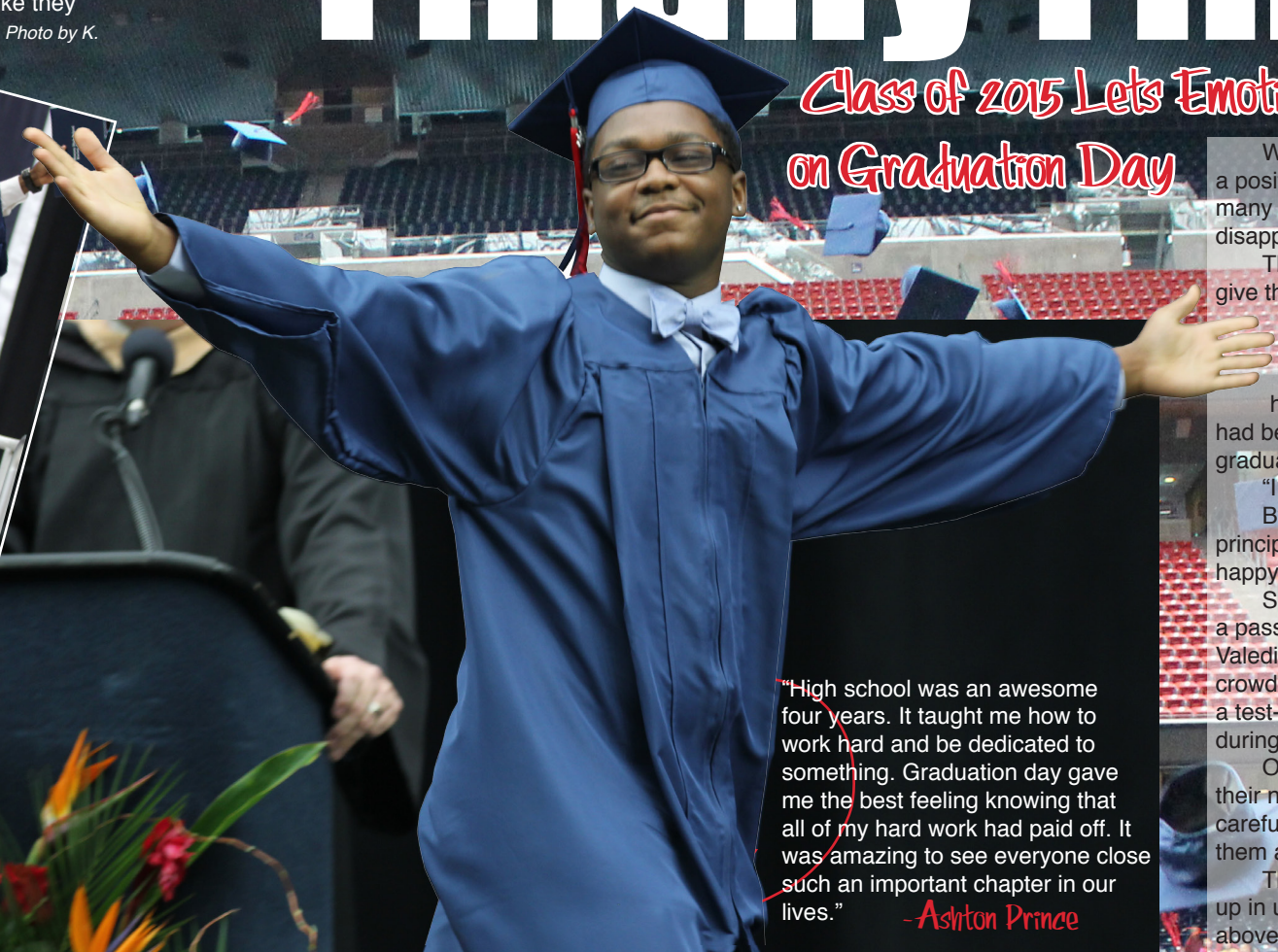


About Time. After receiving his diploma, Euan Wallace checks his watch as if he has somewhere to be. "High school felt like a job that never paid me," Euan said. Photo by T. Oliphant



Raise the Roof. Not able to contain her excitement, Alexis Enriquez celebrates being a graduate on her way to her seat in NRG Stadium. "Personally, I believe the importance of graduation day isn't about moving forward and leaving everything behind," Alexis said. "Instead it's a day about remembrance." Photo by K. Huerta

Shout Out. Kaleb Williams crosses the stage of NRG stadium after receiving his diploma. He doesn't hesitate to acknowledge his family when he spots them in the crowd. "It made me feel like they were proud of me." Photo by K. Huerta



Class of 2015 Lets Emotions Fly on Graduation Day

"High school was an awesome four years. It taught me how to work hard and be dedicated to something. Graduation day gave me the best feeling knowing that all of my hard work had paid off. It was amazing to see everyone close such an important chapter in our lives." -Ashton Prince

When Principal David Moody announced his promotion to a position at the district office in the middle of the school year, many members of the senior class reacted with shock and disappointment.

They had one big question. Would Mr. Moody come back to give them their diplomas at graduation?

Mr. Moody very quickly made an announcement, interrupting class to address the issue. He expressed his confidence in the school's ability to move forward without him, and emphasized how special the first Eagle graduation had been to him in 2010. For the new principal, he said, this graduation would always be special.

"I would never take that away from a principal," he said. By graduation day, Ms. Kelly Holt was officially the new principal, and, as Mr. Moody had predicted, the seniors were happy, relaxed and ready for their big moment.

Salutarian Nathalie Podder addressed the graduates with a passionate urge to take responsibility for changing the world. Valedictorian Angela Feng took a lighter approach, reminding the crowd that she was standing before them because of her skill as a test-taker, not as a speech-maker. Ms. Holt glowed with pride during her first graduation address as principal.

One by one, students filed onto the stage, waiting to hear their names. Mr. George McKendree and Mr. Mark Lesmeister carefully pronounced more than 470 names, having practiced them all.

Then, for a few shining seconds, the class of 2015 looked up in unison as hundreds of blue caps and red tassels twirled above them.



"I can wake up to my first alarm." -Xavier Contreras