

Comal Independent School District

NEWS RELEASE

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Fourteen Comal ISD graduates earn diplomas during summer ceremony

Cynthia Centeno was determined from the first day she set foot on the Smithson Valley High campus three years ago to graduate early.

Despite the fact she played in the band, competed in debate, was active in FFA and held a job outside of school, Centeno accomplished her goal.

Centeno, along with 13 other graduates from Memorial, Canyon and Smithson Valley high schools, earned their degrees during the summer ceremony Comal ISD held at its Support Services Board Room on Aug. 27.

"It was tough to balance school work with my extracurricular things," said Centeno. "But I got it done, and it's such a rewarding feeling."

After dropping out of high school as a sophomore, Scott Rowland returned and earned his degree from Memorial High.

"There were definitely times I thought I wouldn't make it," said Rowland, who became the first member of his immediate family to earn a high school degree. "When I was handed my degree, it made all the hard work worth while. I hope I can be an inspiration to somebody else who isn't taking the traditional path to graduation."

This is the second consecutive year Comal ISD has held a summer graduation.

"This is a wonderful event," said Dr. Jodi Duron, Comal ISD Assistant Superintendent for Academics and Student Services. "Whether a student is graduating early or has to take a little extra time to graduate at their own pace, it's a great accomplishment and something to be very proud of."

Comal ISD Superintendent Dr. Marc Walker addressed the graduates shortly before they received their diplomas.

“You have a chance to accomplish great things in life,” Dr. Walker said.
“Dream big, and go out and accomplish your goals.”

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IN PHOTO: Raylin Benzie is all smiles as she receives her diploma from school board president Carol Keller at the Comal ISD graduation ceremony held Aug. 27 at the district’s Support Services Building. A total of 14 graduates from Memorial, Canyon and Smithson Valley high schools earned their degrees during the summer ceremony.