

Comal Independent School District

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Jason Gordon

Release Date: June 1, 2009

830-885-1081

“Fantastic Four” make graduation history at Canyon Lake High

When Amanda Hollek, Sinjin Horton, Jamie Parker and Tiffany Skruhak entered Canyon Lake High when it opened in the fall of 2007, the quartet didn't intend to make school history.

That's exactly what they did on May 27, however, as the small group became the first-ever graduates at CLHS, managing to complete their required coursework in only three years of high school.

The “Fantastic Four” as some dubbed them, had their own unique, private graduation ceremony held alongside their family, admiring CLHS students and teachers, and proud district and school administrators.

Canyon Lake High won't have a full class of seniors until next school year.

“I don't think any of us were trying to do anything out of the ordinary,” said Holleck, who took a few summer school classes along the way to gain extra credits. “When I realized I had the chance to graduate in three years, I figured I might as well give it a shot. It's pretty cool we were part of such a special group – not many students get to be the first to graduate in a school.”

So personalized was the graduation ceremony held in the school's auditorium that counselor Susan Nabors was able to say something at the podium about each individual graduate before the group walked across the stage.

Nabors said Skruhak was creative with a strong sense of self, Parker was a hard worker who always had a smile on her face, Holleck was wise beyond her years and Horton always had a clear sense about what he wanted to accomplish.

“We can’t say enough about how extremely proud we are of these students,” CHLS principal Cheryl Koury said. “It seems like just yesterday we were opening the doors of this school and now we have graduates. As you can see, it’s hard for me to stop smiling. I can’t wait until next year when we have a full class.”

Parker said it was a good feeling walking around campus the last few weeks knowing she was going to graduate.

“I think we were setting an example for next year’s seniors,” said Parker, who will attend Stephen F. Austin University in the fall. “We had a lot of people in the school congratulate us the more everyone heard about what we were doing.”

Canyon Lake High junior Shauna Miller was definitely impressed with the graduates.

“What they accomplished is pretty awesome,” Miller said. “Oh my gosh, they worked so hard. One of them is my really good friend, and she was always cracking the books. I think they were an inspiration to a lot of other students on campus.”

CUTLINES:

Canyon Lake High, which won’t have a full class of seniors until next school year, had four early graduates that were honored at a ceremony on May 27. (From left) Amanda Holleck, Sinjin Horton, Jamie Parker and Tiffany Skruhak accomplished the impressive feat of graduating in three years. An auditorium full of students, friends and family, as well as school and district administrators and school board members, were on hand to make this a very special night.

