



From the Poughkeepsie  
Journal, Saturday, June  
27, 2009

Principal Eduard Kossman, left, President of the Wappingers Board of Education Douglass Bitteker and Ezekeil Chincuanco at the Orchard View Alternative High School graduation in Wappinger Falls. (Emily Bogle photos/For the Poughkeepsie Journal)

WAPPINGERS FALLS — Sixteen students graduated this morning from Orchard View Alternative High School.  
Advertisement

A dozen students were on hand to accept their diplomas.

Mark Tyler Rodriguez, 19, finished school in January, but could not attend the ceremony because he is serving the U.S. Army.

His parents, David and Christine Rodriguez, of Hopewell Junction, came to show support for the other students.

“He’s done so well,” said Christine Rodriguez, of her son. “I miss him a lot.”

Orchard View serves students in the Wappingers Central School District. The ceremony was held in the board of education room at district offices. The room was decked in red and black balloons and garlands.

Orchard View opened in 2003 as an alternative school for students who were not succeeding at Roy C. Ketcham or John Jay, the district's high schools.

Wappingers District Superintendent Richard A. Powell gave the commencement address.

“The graduates really took Obama’s message to heart--‘Dropping out of high school is no longer an option. It’s not just quitting on yourself, it’s quitting on your country,’” he said.

Graduate Jordan R. McKeon’s grandmother, Margaret McKeon, of Beacon, sat in the audience.

“I’m proud of my grandson because he overcame a lot of obstacles,” she said. “I’m proud of all of them because they accomplished a lot.”

The school played a short slide show after the ceremony.

Ezekeil Chincuanco, 18, of Wappingers Falls received five awards. Chincuanco said she plans to attend Dutchess Community College in the fall and is interested in studying law.

Graduates and their families were invited to attend a celebratory luncheon at the Culinary Institute of America at 11:30 a.m.