



58 receive diplomas from Richard Milburn Academy

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Graduation caps were flying in the air, horns were blowing and family and friends cheered the 58 graduating seniors of Richard Milburn Academy Friday at Odessa College's Deaderick Hall. Shortly before Lorissa Jo Lide crossed the stage to accept her diploma, her father, Henry Lide, said he was overjoyed.

"It's always one of the biggest steps in life. Then hopefully they go on to junior college and college and then marriage. Those are the major things parents look forward to," he said. Lorissa Jo was the valedictorian of the chartered school's third graduation.

Lide said his daughter plans to attend Lamar Community College in Colorado to participate in college rodeo and study equine science.

While delivering her remarks, Lorissa Jo said she's eager to achieve her dream of working with horses.

And she wanted her fellow graduates to know they could do anything they wanted in life if they set their minds to it.

"We are what we seek and expect in ourselves," Lide said. "Keep believing in yourself and expect great things to come."

Principal D.J. Hittinger said it was wonderful to see her students graduate and move a step closer toward their goals.

She said their education at Richard Milburn Academy will prepare them for their future endeavors because the students receive a great deal of attention with a 17-1 student-teacher ratio. A benefit of attending the chartered school, Hittinger said, is the flexibility of class scheduling. Eighteen-year-old graduate Erin Borunda agreed, saying that she was able to take classes and work as a secretary.

Borunda's immediate plan is to take Cosmetology classes at Midland College, but she said she'd like to be an accountant someday.

"I didn't expect to come this far. I was thinking of dropping out," she said. Borunda is the second person in her family to receive a high school diploma.

"I wanted to prove to my family that I could do it. And I did," she said.