

3 Center Academy campuses honor graduates

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By Kelly J. Stigliano, Correspondent

ORANGE PARK - Twenty-three graduates from the three Center Academy campus locations – Orange Park, Mandarin and Jacksonville – gathered at the auditorium at the Florida State College at Jacksonville Kent Campus. The room was full of friends and families as they celebrated the students' hard work and perseverance.

After an encouraging message from Dr. Andrew Hicks, Ph.D., CEO of the Center Academy Corporation, students' letters of appreciation were read. Many thanked the teachers, staff and administration in their letters, but all thanked their families for the love and support offered to them throughout their school years.

Students then presented Certificates of Appreciation to their parents or grandparents, and roses to their mothers and grandmothers.

After the graduates received their diplomas, they filed out to Kool & The Gang's "Celebration."

Laughter and tears filled the lobby and spilled out the door. Photos and hugs were followed by promises to revisit their schools, teachers and friends.

If following the pattern of graduates who've gone before them, they certainly will return to share the exciting new paths they've chosen and thank their teachers.