

Good evening everyone,

My name is Chaise Hubbard, and I'm honored to stand here today as not just a graduate but as someone who's been part of the Next Level CDC family since the second grade.

When I look back, I realize that this program wasn't just something I showed up to after school. It was something that shaped me. Molded me. Poured into me in ways I didn't fully understand back then, but I definitely feel now.

From an early age, this place taught me more than just homework help and snacks. It taught me discipline. It taught me respect. It taught me what it means to carry yourself with purpose, to think bigger, and to live with values and morals that actually matter in the real world.

Next Level Built My Foundation. What y'all might not know is that Next Level CDC played a huge role in the man I'm becoming today.

All those lessons about showing up on time, respecting adults, helping others, and staying focused — those stuck with me. And the crazy part is, I didn't realize how solid that foundation was until life started testing me. Because when things got hard — and they did — I fell back on those early lessons. The structure. The expectation. The love. The accountability.

This program planted seeds of leadership, integrity, and self-worth long before I even understood how much I'd need them.

From a Kid in the Program to a Young Man with Purpose. I've grown a lot since that second grader first walked through these doors. Now I'm 18, a high school graduate, and on my way to Alabama A&M University this fall to major in Computer Science and march in the band.

But I'll never forget where it started.

Next Level was one of the first places that believed in me — not because I was perfect, but because they saw potential.

And now that I'm older, I see it wasn't just about helping me “stay on track.” It was about raising up young men and women who would carry purpose, character, and strength into the world.

To the Graduates Coming Behind Me. To the young ones still in the program don't take this place for granted.

Everything they're teaching you now?  
It's gonna show up in your life later. In your friendships. In your decisions. In your opportunities.

Next Level isn't just preparing you for school it's preparing you for life.

So listen. Stay humble. Keep learning. And remember — you don't have to be perfect to be powerful. You just have to keep growing.

Thank You(thank everyone Ms Jackson, Ms Kim, Ms Bri, Ms Kesia , Ms Eileen, Ms Ray, Mr. Jared, Pastor Paul). To the staff, mentors, and everyone at Next Level CDC thank you.

Thank you for loving us, pushing us, correcting us, and believing in us. Thank you for helping raise not just students... but leaders.

Because of you, I walk forward with confidence. With purpose. With a sense of identity that started right here.

I'm proud to say I came through this program. And I'll carry it with me for the rest of my life.

Thank you, and congratulations to every graduate in the room. We made it. Now let's go be great.