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Like other graduates, Adam Chamberlain has mixed feelings about leaving high school.

"About leaving, I feel sad," he says. "But I feel happy, too, because I'm ready to go."

Chamberlain has spent the last three years with Project M.O.R.E. — TUSD's alternative high school that offers students "more options for relevant education."

He spent most of his freshman and sophomore years ditching classes at Sahuaro High, he says. It's not a bad school, he adds — it just wasn't the right school for him.

"Here it's open and everybody feels equal and everybody feels like they're part of it. This school recognized my intelligence and potential and helped me to develop it."

Chamberlain, 19, got a head start on classes at Pima Community College this year while taking math and a seminar on Central America at Project M.O.R.E.

He helped organize a Central America "awareness day" to "get people to think about Central America and realize they can help put an end to the conflicts."

He also devoted spare time to studying classical and flamenco guitar. He wants to get a college degree in music and he hopes to become a concert guitarist.

"I'd like to perform and teach and write. I'd like to get into some really creative things."

Chamberlain will give a speech tonight at his school commencement and will receive an award for good citizenship.

He credits Project M.O.R.E. with his success as a student and as a person.

"It's been great," he says. "I feel like I'm somebody now."

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