

# A PARENT'S STORY

*Amanda Warley*

Mom to Daniel  
Westview Parent 2008-2010  
Westview Teacher 2009-present

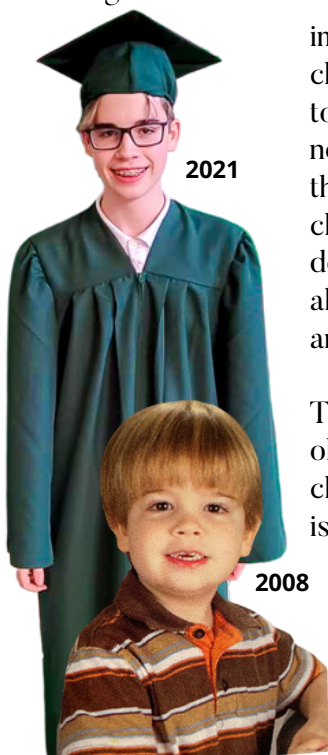
Dear Friend of Westview,

I first walked through the doors of Westview in 2007 when I was looking for a school for my 2-year-old son, Daniel. Because of my background in education, I had not been surprised by my son's diagnosis. However, I still had feelings of hopelessness and fear common to parents of newly diagnosed children. The first thing I noticed on my tour of The Westview School was the warm welcome we received. Everyone, from Candi at the front desk to the teachers and administration, seemed happy to be there. As we talked with the staff about our son, I began to feel the hopelessness dissipate.

After Daniel started attending Westview, I learned that the positive attitude and love for the students was genuine. Daniel felt safe and loved, and we

immediately saw tremendous changes in him. The doctors had told us that he would probably never talk, but he was singing the songs he heard in music class in just a few months. The doctors also said that he would always be in special education and never be independent.

That little boy is now 17 years old and is in a general education class with very little support. He is on the basketball team and is in the process of getting his driver's license so that he can hang out more with his friends.



I know this success was largely due to Westview and the time and love they poured into him. The year after my son started school, I resumed my teaching career at Westview. I got to see more clearly what makes Westview so special. The staff at Westview are truly like a family to me. I teach some amazing children and have the honor of working closely with their families.

**“To this day, I can't imagine working anywhere else. I love getting up every day and going to work with those warm, welcoming people I met 15 years ago.”**

I am still in touch with many of the families I have worked with over the years, and I get the privilege of watching those children blossom and grow long after they leave Westview. Best of all, I get to give parents the same love and hope first given to me in 2007. To my family and countless other families, The Westview School is not just a school for children with autism- it is a special place that changes lives every day.

*Amanda*

