



## A PARENT'S STORY

Hogela Jennings
Mom to Carter
Westview Parent 2013-present

Dear Friend of Westview,

It is hard to believe that Carter has started his 10th and final year at The Westview School. At age three, Carter's autism story begins in early intervention with Katy ISD. After two years, at age 5, he finished the program, and we knew it was time to find a place he fit a little better. It was an emotional time, and nothing seemed right. At the end of one tour, I remember leaning against a wall and just starting to cry; a sweet grandma walked over to check on me, and when I expressed that I was frustrated with the lack of schools for kiddos like my son, she grabbed my hand and said: "don't worry, go check out The Westview School!" She had two grandsons who had attended Westview with great success. How many times have I wished that I could thank that sweet lady for comforting me and helping me find the most amazing school for my son?

We started at Westview in 2013; Carter was 5, could say about three words, was a very picky eater and would get upset easily. The early days were rough; I was honestly surprised they didn't ask us to leave. but that's the amazing thing about Westview.

Eventually, Carter found his way and was headed to kindergarten! Fast forward a few more years to third grade, and he was awarded the first-ever "Heart of Gold" award for his kind behavior with his teachers and classmates! Five years later, he's in middle school and has come so far! He never stops talking; he loves to eat all the things, has friends that he loves to be around, and makes everyone laugh. He has turned out to be a well-rounded child, and I can't wait to see what goals he crushes next!

Westview saved Carter; honestly, it saved our family too! We all have made some of our best friends within the walls of Westview. I think we all needed Westview as much as Carter did. As we move on, those friendships have deep roots that will last forever!

As we begin transitioning Carter into high school, I can't help but look back at our wonderful Westview years and know deep down in my heart that having Carter attend Westview for ten years was one of the best decisions I could have ever made.

Westview will forever be my "happy place!" When you support The Westview School, you are helping kids like Carter and his friends become the very best versions of themselves. Within the walls of this great school, your kindness and generosity help our students grow together.

