



## A PARENT'S STORY

*Jackie Howell*

Mom to Hunter  
Westview Parent 2018-present

Dear Friend of Westview,

“I’m not good at anything. Nobody wants to be my friend. I don’t like it there. I’m just one of those guys who isn’t good at school.”

These are things our son Hunter said to me after another frustrating day at school. I typed them into a note in my phone to share with his teacher, and I’ve never deleted that note so I can remember what it’s like to put him into a place where he isn’t able to thrive. This is where we were when we toured the Westview School. We had tried multiple schooling options, and none were the right fit. He was exhausted and blaming himself, and so were we.

Hunter’s first year at Westview was a transition. I can’t even tell you how many times he “fired” his teacher (Boss Baby was a big movie back then). The thing is, even though he struggled, he made friends. His teachers loved him, you could tell in their interactions. The staff all knew him, greeting him in the hall and taking note of the things he was interested in so they could talk to him about them. They warned him about fire drills and were patient when he wasn’t flexible.

This is Hunter’s fifth year at Westview. He transitioned into middle school seamlessly last year, and his family at school were just as proud as his family at home. He has great friends, and POW, our parent organization, is a place where I have found lifelong friends who truly understand our life.

Westview has helped Hunter become more confident. He knows he’s “good at school” now and he’s able to talk about his struggles with emotional maturity. He’s a good leader and helps friends when he can.

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**Hunter’s teachers meet him where he is and are genuinely interested in what he has to say. It’s a truly special place.**

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There are so many organizations worthy of support, but there is no place like Westview. Westview has done so much to change our lives, and there are many other kids out there who would benefit so much from finding a place where they fit. Please consider supporting Westview so this special place can continue to change the world, one kid at a time.

*Jackie*

