

A PARENT'S STORY

Kristi Anders

Mom to Noah
Westview Parent 2007-2010
Westview Instructional Assistant 2016-present

Dear Friend of Westview,

My son, Noah, was diagnosed with autism around eighteen months. To say we were devastated by the diagnosis would be an understatement. We knew the day we brought him home from the hospital that he was "different" than his older brothers. He began speech, occupational, and behavior therapy following his initial diagnosis, and continued at-home therapy until he was three. My husband and I looked into our neighborhood public school and quickly decided it wasn't the place for our special little boy. Our behavioral therapist recommended The Westview School. I can honestly say that I didn't have my hopes up. Boy, was I pleasantly surprised!

“ I felt peace fill me when I walked into Westview for the first time. When I met Ms. Jane, I knew that we were home. ”

Noah began Westview at three years old, starting in a bridge class between Early Childhood and Prekindergarten. He continued through first grade. I credit Westview with saving my son and giving us the Noah we have today. After Westview, he went to public school, and he graduated high school this past June.

Noah is now attending classes at Houston Community College and wants to be a teacher. Since he was about fourteen, Noah has spent his summers volunteering at Westview.

When asked why he volunteers, he says he wants to give back to the school and the community that gave so much to him and made him the person he is today.

I began working as an instructional assistant after Noah's first Westview year. I had never really thought about teaching; I was just a mom, but Westview had an opening, and someone simply asked me. I am forever grateful that I said "yes" to Westview's ask to teach; it has changed my life. I found my calling in life, my passion. I love working at Westview. I have worked in Early Childhood, Pre-kindergarten, and Lower Elementary for the last seven years. I love the students, my colleagues, and the amazing Westview community. There is no place in the world like Westview. Just like Noah found a place where he fit at Westview, Westview feels like home to me and always will be.

I am proud to share my story in support of The Westview School. From a student and parent perspective to a member of the Westview staff, I see the life-changing ways this school is impacting families, and your donation helps Westview to make a difference.

Kristi

