



A PARENT'S STORY

Michael McKee

Dad to Cason
Westview Parent 2014-present
Westview Support Specialist 2016-present

Dear Friend of Westview,

When my wife and I were looking for a new school for our son, Cason, for our upcoming move to Houston, private school was not even on my mind as an option. Because we were looking for the best public school district for our family, I reached out to an old friend from college who knew someone who knew another person that could help us out. That friend of a friend's friend turned out to be Becky Mattis. When I spoke to her about Cason and what we were looking for, she gave me some good recommendations for school districts. It wasn't a pushy sales call. It was just a kind human helping another human. We investigated the school that Becky worked for, and, at the strong insistence of my wife, we toured the Westview School.

To be honest, I was not initially impressed. The school was small. I was used to big public schools that housed thousands of kids with giant gymnasiums and large loud lunchrooms. There was no huge grand entrance, so it was obviously too small for my kid. My wife, on the other hand, loved it. We applied, and Cason did a visit. He was accepted. I told her that I would give a try for a year. After a year, I realized that it did not matter how big or grand the building was... it was the people inside that mattered. We found a group of teachers that knew and loved our son.

They really do everything they can to help a child succeed, no matter how hard of a time a child is having.

Teachers that pushed him when he needed to be pushed and loved on him when he needed to be loved on. Teachers that we didn't even know, knew our kid and told us how much they loved him. We met other parents that understood what we were going through and what we had been through. We found a family.

“ In Westview, we found a home where Cason could be who he truly was and be loved for that. ”

We knew that he was somewhere safe, and we never had to worry about our son when we dropped him off. When we moved to Houston, we had to pause all of the ABA, OT, and Speech therapies that our son was in. We wanted to see what Westview alone could do for him. We never enrolled him again in any of those things. All the growth he has made and the young man he has become, was all due to the love and support from Westview.

Eventually, an opportunity came around for me to be a part of this group of amazing human beings.

It was not easy to leave the big buildings and public-school mindset that I was used to, but I am so glad I did. I now know the huge difference that a small school can make, and I am so glad that I can be a part of it.

Michael

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